BUNGO STRAY DOGS BEAST

1

Story by **KAFKA ASAGIRI**

Art by **SHIWASU HOSHIKAWA**

Character Design by **SANGO HARUKAWA**

WHEN HE CAME TO THE END OF THIS ROAD ...
... AKUTAGAWA BELIEVED THAT HE WOULD DIE.

#1: THE SILENT RABID DOG
BUNGO
STRAY DOGS
BEAST
Story by KAFKA ASAGIRI
Art by SHIWASU HOSHIKAWA
Character Design by SANGO HARUKAWA

#1: THE SILENT RABID DOG 001

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WHETHER SLEEPING ON THE COLD STREET, ENJOYING A RARE DECENT MEAL, OR EVEN BEING BEATEN BY ADULTS, HE ALMOST NEVER SHOWED ANY FEELINGS.
THE BOYS AND GIRLS AKUTAGAWA'S AGE ALL SAID THE SAME THING — HE WAS A "CHILD WITHOUT EMOTIONS."
ALL HE HAD WERE HIS DARK, BOT-TOM-LESS EYES ...

SIGN: JOU CONFECTIONS MAIN OFFICE

GO (THUD)
!?
TAKA-HIRO!
A KID WITH A PAY ENVELOPE, HUH? LOOK AT MR. MONEYBAGS OVER HERE!

ONLY TWO THOUSAND YEN? FUNNY JOKE.
HEY, WHAT THE HELL!?

WE NEED THAT MONEY TO SURVIVE!
GIVE IT BACK, ASS-HOLE!
GOT IT? NOW HAND OVER ALL YOU GOT.
AND YOU KIDS EXIST TO HELP US.
THIS IS THE SLUM, AIN'T IT? WE ALL GOTTA HELP EACH OTHER.

BU
(THUNK)

YOU BETTER WORK HARD FOR YOUR FRIEND, THEN.
ALL FOR ONE WITH YOU GUYS, HUH? BEAUTI-FUL.

ННННН!

EVERY TIME YOU DO, THIS GUY GETS TO LIVE LONGER.
'COS GUESS WHAT? STARTING TOMORROW, YOU'RE BRINGING ALL YOUR PAY TO ME.

HUNH?

GUYS... RUN...

YOU TRASH ...

AAAARRRGH!
AKUTA-GAWA-SAN!
SHIT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! HE'LL TURN US INTO SASHI-MI!
HIS SHIRT TURNED INTO A BLADE... THIS KID'S A SKILL USER!
HE'S NOT THE GUY THEY CALL THE "SILENT RABID DOG," IS HE!?
SIGN: —STREET
MY HAND ...

LET'S GO HOME.

OKAY.

WISH I HAD A SKILL LIKE THAT...

ASK FOR THE MOON WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, MAN.

HEE... HEE HEE HEE...

GOSO (RUMMAGE)

KING

IF ONLY WE HAD SOME EXTRA MONEY...

WE NEED FOOD FIRST. HOW'LL WE SURVIVE WINTER?

HOW DID YOU ...?
WHOA, IS THAT ...?
A DIA-MOND? FOR REAL?

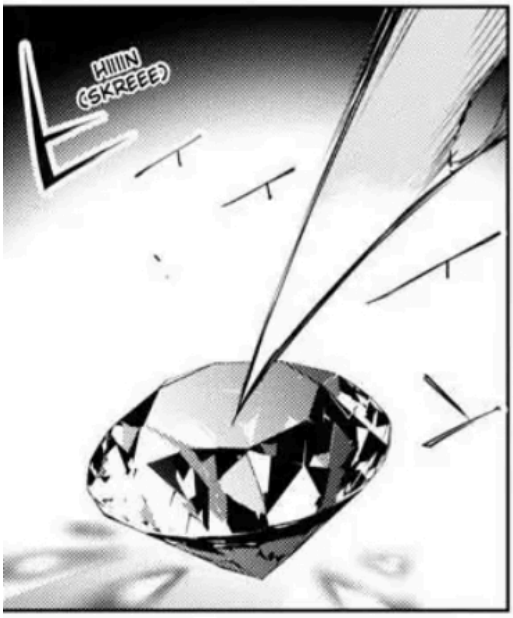
TA-DAA!

IT'S TAKING PLACE RIVERSIDE, ABOUT TEN KILO-METERS NORTH OF OUR PLACE.
DURING MY BREAK FROM WORK, I LISTENED IN ON SOME MOBSTERS TALKING ABOUT AN ILLEGAL DEAL.

FOR REAL !?
AND IN THE MIDDLE OF IT, ONE OF 'EM DROPPED THIS DIAMOND.

AH, UH... TH-THIS'LL KEEP US FED FOR A WHILE, HUH, AKUTAGAWA-SAN?

BI
(SWIPE)
!

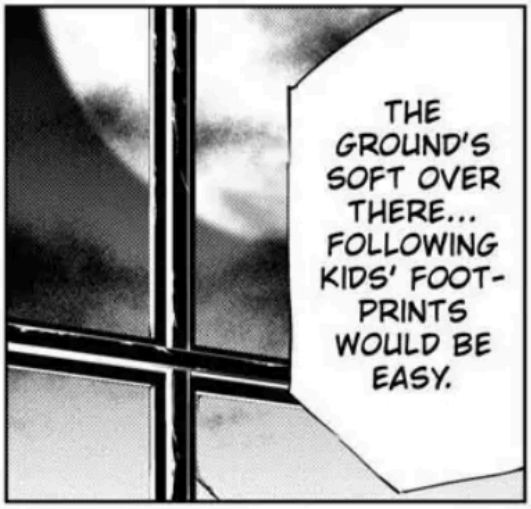

HIIIIN
(SKREEE)

GIRI
(SKRCH)
GIRI

GACHI
(TWIIING)

IT'S REAL.

HEY, MAYBE THEY LEFT MORE DIAMONDS THERE!
LET'S CHECK IT OUT!
WHOAAA!


THE GROUND'S SOFT OVER THERE... FOLLOWING KIDS' FOOT-PRINTS WOULD BE EASY.

YEAH.
NII-SAN...

PACK UP IN ONE MINUTE, PEOPLE. WE NEED TO GET OUTTA HERE.

PAN (BANG)

WHA—

SORRY, BUT WE AIN'T GIVIN' YA A MINUTE.

ESPE-CIALLY IF YOU HEARD ABOUT OUR DEAL.

THAT ONE JEWEL SURE COST YA A LOT, HUH?

H... H-HEL ...
HEL...P... US... AKU...TA...
TA
TAN
TA (POW)

ZUDODODO
(BRATTATA)

RIN!
KATSUMI!
CHUI (TWING)
YUJI!
SHINYA!
JBI (THWIP)

GA (GRAB)
NII-SAN, RUN!!

SAYAKA
...

PARIN (SMASH)

ZABA (SPLASH)

BIG...

...O!

THE ENEMY'S ALREADY GONE.

BUT YOU CAN'T MOVE WITH THAT, NII-SAN.

YOU... YOUR ARM!

IT'S FINE... JUST A SCRATCH.

GIN!!

BA (BWING)

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS !?

NII-SAN!
YOU CAN'T GO!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN WIN AGAINST THEM.

WIN? YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA.
I'M NOT GOING IN ORDER TO WIN.

OUR FRIENDS MAY HAVE BEEN BORN IN THE DIRT AND DIED IN THE DIRT, BUT THEIR LIVES DON'T COME CHEAP...
...AND I'M GOING TO CARVE THAT INTO ALL OF 'EM.

IN FACT, THE REALM OF THE DEAD WOULD HAVE FELT BETTER THAN THIS.
THERE WAS NO FEAR OF DEATH.

THEIR DAILY LIVES, GOING DAYS WITHOUT FOOD, EVEN FIGHTING OVER WEEDS IN THE GROUND...

...YOUR FRIEND NEXT TO YOU SILENCED FOR ALL TIME...

WAKING UP ON A SNOWY MORNING, ONLY TO FIND...

...THEN THIS IS VEN-GEANCE... REVENGE FOR HAVING EVER BEEN BORN.

IF THAT WAS LIFE, THE FATED COST FOR LIVING AND BREATHING IN THIS WORLD...

THERE THEY ARE.

ZA (ZSH)

SIX OF THEM.

BI (RIP)

WE STILL HAVE SOME TIME UNTIL THE DEAL.

ZORO (FILE)

ZORO

NGH!

GUCHI (CHRK)

NU (SMEAR)

PLEASE HELP ME.

ZU (DRAG)

ZA (ZSH)

HELP ...

TWO PEOPLE WITH GUNS ATTACKED ME...

MY CAR GOT ATTACKED ON THE ROAD OVER THERE...
TWO MASKED MEN STRUCK A GOV-ERNMENT ARMORED VEHICLE...

WHO ARE YOU, KID?
WHY'RE YOU ALONE THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
KA-CHK

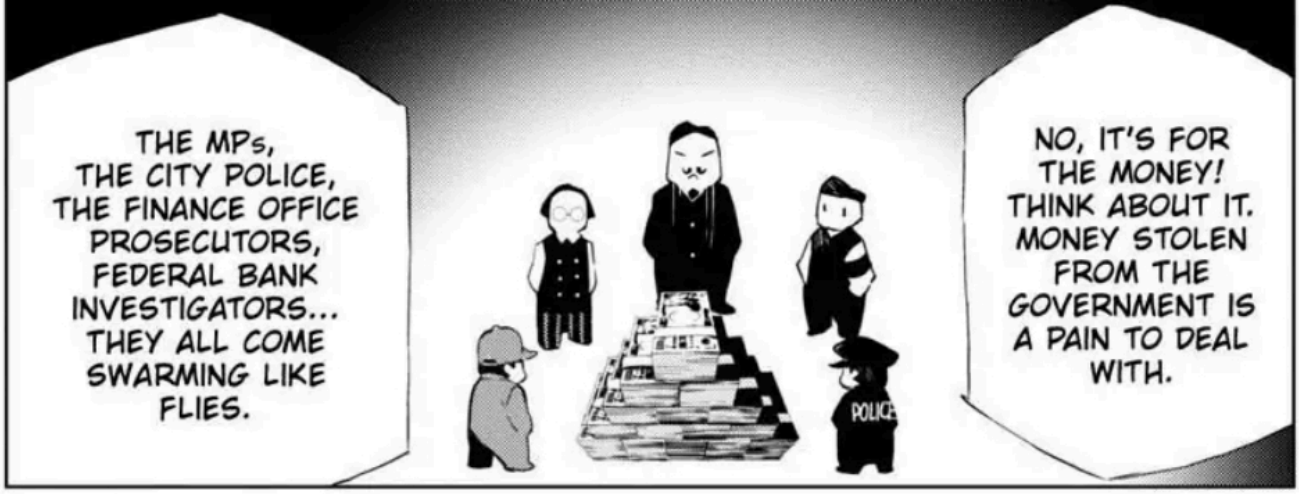
AH-HA. SO YOU WITNESSED A ROBBERY, HUH?
THIS AREA'S AS ROUGH AS EVER.

I SAW THEM KILL THE GUARD AND TAKE THE MONEY INSIDE...
THEN THEY CAME TO SHUT ME UP.

HEY, DON'T BE SO HASTY.
ISN'T THIS A GOOD CHANCE FOR US?
HUH?

WELL SORRY, KID, BUT IF I WERE THE ROBBERS, I WOULDN'T SLEEP WELL UNTIL I KILLED YOU.
HELP THEM OUT AND LET 'EM, EH?

THE GOVERNMENT FERRIES HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS AROUND IN THOSE VEHICLES TO KEEP BILLS CIRCULATING.
WE CAN MAKE BANK IF WE BUTT IN ON IT.
WHAT? SO YOU... WANT US TO PROTECT THIS KID?


THE MPs, THE CITY POLICE, THE FINANCE OFFICE PROSECUTORS, FEDERAL BANK INVESTIGATORS... THEY ALL COME SWARMING LIKE FLIES.
POLICE
NO, IT'S FOR THE MONEY! THINK ABOUT IT. MONEY STOLEN FROM THE GOVERNMENT IS A PAIN TO DEAL WITH.

WE'RE UNRELATED. IT'S MONEY FOR FREE! PLUS, IT'S US SIX AGAINST THEIR TWO, AND I LIKE THOSE ODDS.
WE'D NEVER BE TARGETED FOR INVES-TIGATION.
BUT RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE AFTER THOSE TWO ROBBERS.

BUT WE HAVEN'T PREPPED AT ALL.
SHALL WE?

WE HAVE TIME UNTIL THE DEAL.
YEAH, YOU HAVE A POINT.

WE JUST GOTTA WORK OUT A STORY.
TEN PER-CENT OUGHT TO SHUT THEM UP.

WE'RE TALKING HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS. IT'S TOO MUCH TO LET GO. OR WHAT, ARE YOU SCARED?
HELL NO! BUT IF WE TAKE THE GOVERNMENT'S MONEY, WHAT'LL WE TELL THE PORT MAFIA WHEN WE MEET 'EM?

...WE COULDN'T QUITE SAVE HIM IN THE END.

WE HELPED AN INJURED KID AFTER HE GOT AT-TACKED ...
...OR WHATEVER. IT'S MOSTLY THE TRUTH.
EVEN IF...

OH, GOOD, THAT'LL WORK. HAND IT OVER.

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT GUNS ...
...BUT I PICKED UP A BULLET THEY DROPPED.

DE-SCRIBE THIS PAIR TO US, KID.
YOU KNOW THE GUNS THEY HAD?

HMM? HEY, DIDN'T YOU JUST—

ZURU
(ZRRKK)

?

WHA...?

ZUN
GZRRSSH

ZURU
(RIP)

ZA
(ZSH)

BAS-
TARD!

SHOOT HIM!
HE'S A SKILL USER!!
SHOOT HIM DOWN!
DA (BAM)

DA
DA
DA
DA

BI (BIP)
DO
SHU (WHOOSH)
DO (PEW)

OF COURSE ...

...THE MORE, THE BETTER, REALLY.

SU (ZZIP)

THREE? FOUR?

I KILLED THREE IN THAT SURPRISE ATTACK. HOW MANY VILLAINS' SOULS SHOULD I DRAG WITH ME TO HELL?

TA

TA

TA (TUN)

KYUN (CHIRRN)

CHUN (TWING)

PIN

PIN (TING)

BYU (FWOOP)

GO
(BOOOOM)

BODO

BODO
(SPLAT)
BODO

AHHH
!!

WHA... WHAT THE HELL IS THAT KID!?
ZA (ZSH)
DOESN'T HE VALUE HIS OWN DAMN LIFE!?
IS HE TRYIN' TO DIE !?
...LIFE?
VALUE MY OWN...

...TO ALL OF YOU.
I WAS JUST IN THE PROCESS OF TEACHING THE VALUE OF A LIFE...

HYU
(FWOOO)
TA
TA
(BAM)
ZU
(STHIP)
GU
(SCRUNCH)

GO
(GRAB)
MEGI
(TEAR)
BUCHI
(RIP)
AHHHHHHH!!

BU
(SPURT)

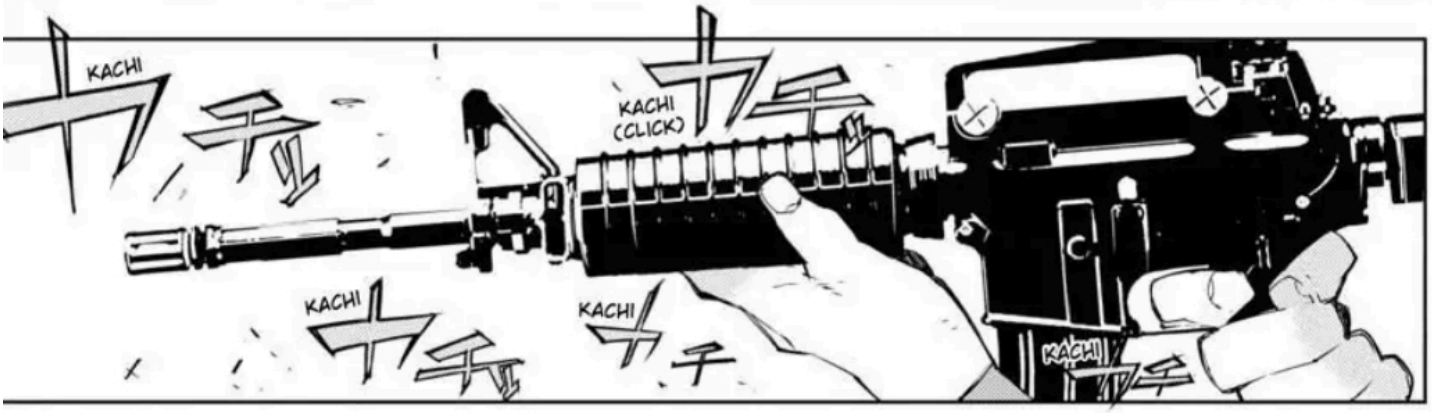
IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I LAST HAD FRESH MEAT.
ONE MORE TO GO.

AAAAAA!
EEP!

TA
TA
TA
TA
(BAM)

GET AWAY!
GET AWAAAAY!
GET AWAY!
GET AWAY!

DA (POW)
DA
DA
DA
ZU (THP)
DA
DA

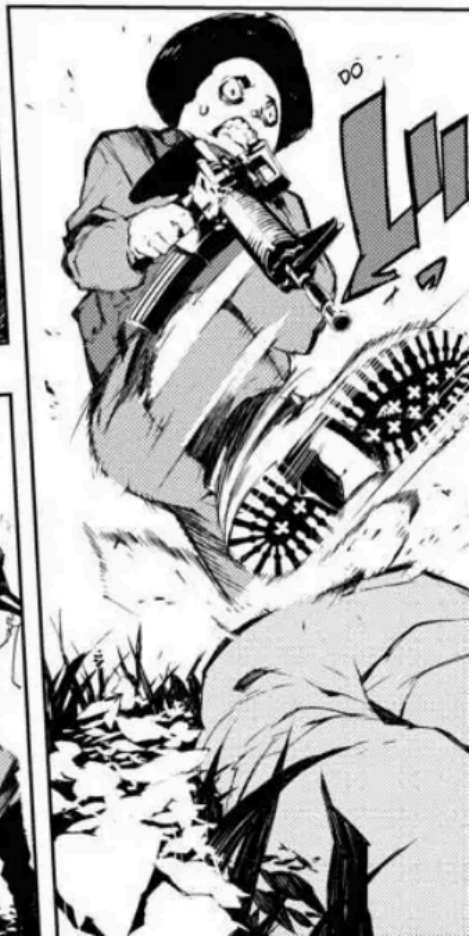

KACHI
KACHI (CLICK)
KACHI
KACHI
KACHI

KACHI
KACHI
KACHI
KACHI

DO
(THUD)

HE'S...
DEAD...?
HE...

.....


DO

HA! THAT LITTLE SHIT IS DEAD!
GO
GO
(BAM)

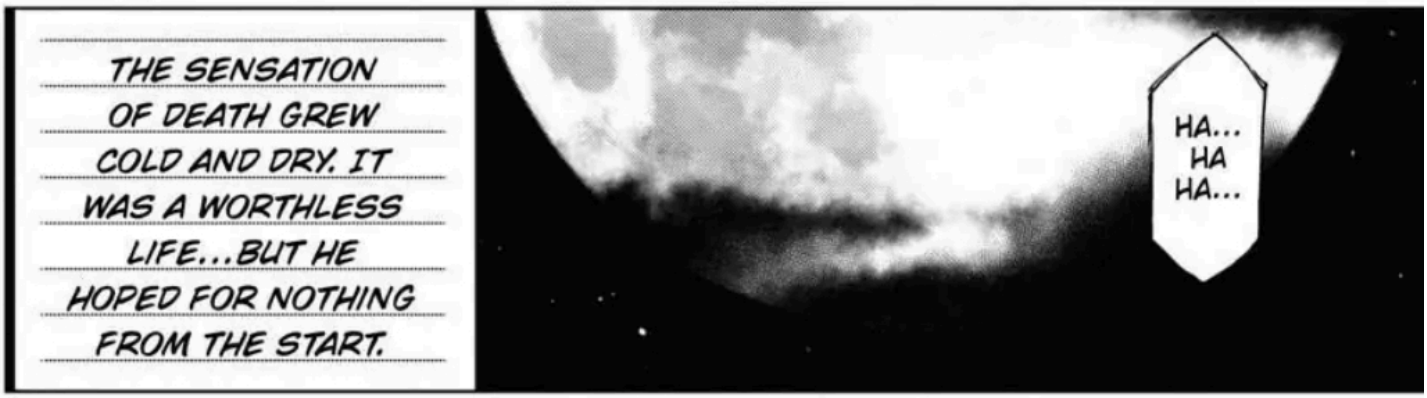
GA
(WHAM)

ZU GZRRMD
I THOUGHT I'D KILLED ENOUGH ...
...BUT I'M FEELING A BIT GREEDY.
I THINK I'LL TAKE A SIXTH SOUL AFTER ALL.

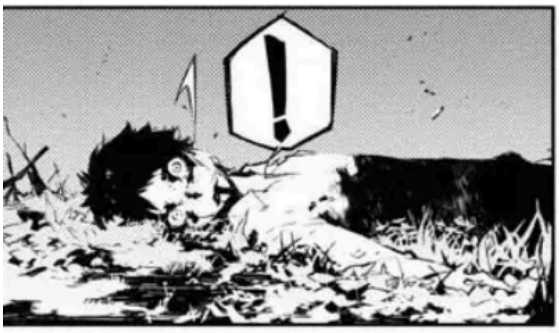
SHURURURU
(SHWOOOP)

PIII
(PWIIIING)
HE'S DEAD?
GU
(GRAB)

DO
(THUD)


THE SENSATION OF DEATH GREW COLD AND DRY. IT WAS A WORTHLESS LIFE...BUT HE HOPED FOR NOTHING FROM THE START.
HA... HA HA...

WHY WAS THERE ANY NEED FOR ME TO DIE AT ALL?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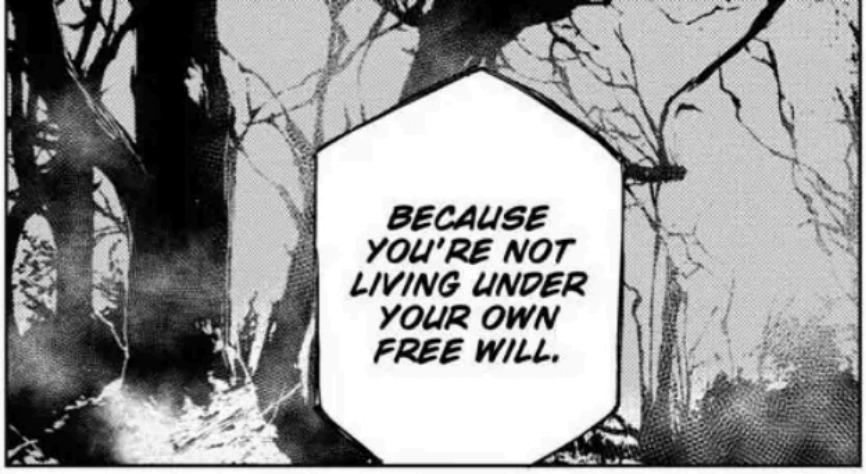
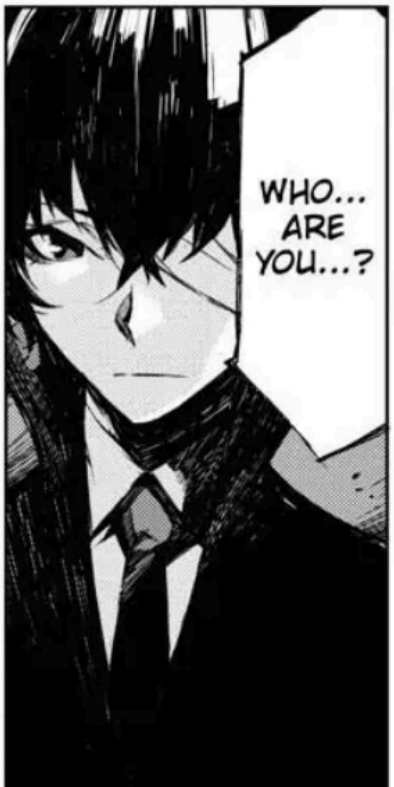

BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT LIVING UNDER YOUR OWN FREE WILL.

ARE YOU...
...WITH THEM?
I INTENDED TO INVITE YOU INTO OUR ORGANIZATION... BUT NEVER MIND THAT.


WHO... ARE YOU...?

YOU CALL ME A PEST?

BUT IF YOU HURT OTHERS ON REFLEX, AS A FUNCTION OF YOUR ENVIRONMENT, THEN YOU'RE JUST A MINDLESS PEST.
PERFORM VIOLENCE UNDER YOUR OWN FREE WILL, AND THAT'S AN ASPECT OF YOUR HUMANITY, NO MATTER HOW CRUEL.

WHAT ARE YOU, THEN?

IF SO, AKUTA-GAWA-KUN...
DO YOU WANT TO KILL ME?
...YOU'RE THE GREATEST FOOL IN THE WORLD ON THIS DAY.

YOU DARE TO CALL IT JUST?

THE VIOLENCE GARBAGE LIKE YOU CARRIES OUT—

WHEN YOU DIE, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE SISTER YOU LEAVE IN THIS CITY?

YOU CAN'T EVEN PICTURE THAT, CAN YOU?

ZA (CRSH)

ZA

I MEAN, REVENGE? THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO DIE FOR?

NO, THERE'S REALLY NO SAVING THIS LEVEL OF STUPIDITY.

CALL ME A FOOL ALL YOU WANT.

I JUST WANT TO MAKE THE PEOPLE WHO CHALLENGE ME THE SECOND-MOST FOOLISH.

YOU BASTARD ...

...! WHY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HER?

I'LL MAKE YOU PAY.

I'LL MAKE YOU PAY!

BASTARD... YOU BASTARD! YOU DARE TRY TO LAY A HAND ON HER!?

RASHOMON!!
GO (BRRAAAM)
DIE!

YOU BORE ME.
SHU (VWOO)

WHA—?

BUAA (FWUMP)

GO (THUD)

YOU CAN'T KILL ME.

ZA (ZSH)

NOT WITH THAT STRENGTH. I THINK I'LL GO WITH MY OTHER CHOICE FOR AN UNDERLING.

ZA

ZA

I'M DEAD MEAT.

!
ZA
ZA (ZISH)

WHEN YOU REALIZE THE ESSENCE OF YOUR WEAKNESS, TRY COMING FOR ME AGAIN.
UNTIL THEN, I'LL LOOK AFTER YOUR LITTLE SISTER.

WHA —!?
WAIT—
WAIT... DON'T TAKE MY SISTER. STOP...

BUT MY SISTER... I CAN'T LET THEM HURT MY SISTER...
I'M A FOOL, AND I'LL DIE... THAT'S FINE.

...FOUR AND A HALF YEARS PASSED.
AND THEN!...

...WITH PIPING-HOT HOUJICHA TEA AS A PALATE CLEANSER.
SPRINGY MOCHI IN A SWEET, WARM RED BEAN SOUP...

BUT RIGHT NOW...
GASA (RUSTLE)
I'D LIKE TO TRY IT SOMEDAY.

ZAA (ZSSSH)
...I'M AFRAID I MAY STARVE TO DEATH.

NOT UNTIL I SAVE MY SISTER AND KILL THAT MAN.
NO...I CANNOT LET MYSELF DIE HERE.

MUG-WORT!

KIN (TWIIIING)

ZU (POUND)

GRRR...

GUI (ZWIP)

RRRUMBLE

DO (THUD)

ㅂㅣ

MY NAME IS ODA.

ME?

...A MEMBER OF THE ARMED DETECTIVE AGENCY.

SAKU-NOSUKE ODA...

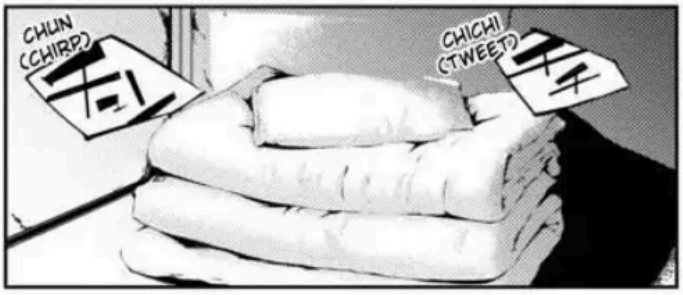
... DETECTIVE AGENCY?

Bungo Stray Dogs

B E A S T

#2: A CERTAIN BOMB

"IT'S SOMETHING THEY REALIZE RIGHT BEFORE THEY DIE," HUH...?
HE WAS... RIGHT...
I COULD REALLY GO...
...FOR SOME CURRY ...


CHUN (CHIRP)
CHICHI (TWEET)

KO
KO (TAP)

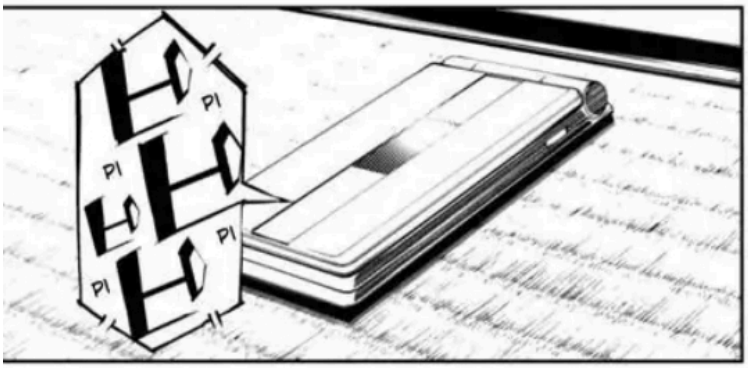
THE FOURTH FLOOR HERE?

YOU ARE...?

ARMED DETECTIVE AGENCY
!

I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN, BUT I NEED HELP.
YOU'RE AKUTA-GAWA? I HEARD ABOUT YOU.

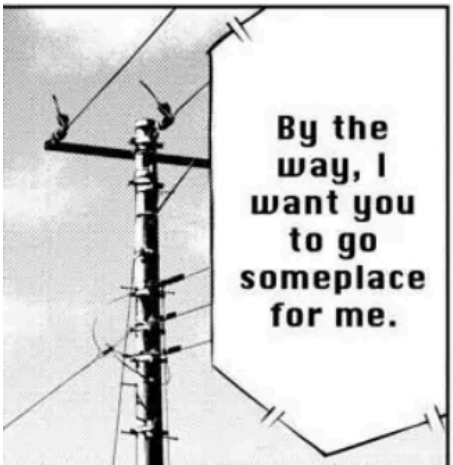
A MAN CALLED ODA ASKED ME TO REPORT TO THE AGENCY.
AKUTA-GAWA.


PI
PI
PI
PI

PI (BEEP)
PI
PI
PI

WHO'S THERE?

WHERE DO I PRESS?


By the way, I want you to go someplace for me.

I'VE NEVER LIVED IN SUCH A GRAND ESTATE, FREE OF WIND AND RAIN.
I see?
BORO (CRUMBLE)
You're up? It's me, Oda. Did you sleep well in your new dorm?

GATA

I CAN'T TAKE IT...

GATA (QUIVER)

I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE...

GA (FWING)

GET HIM OUT HERE NOW!

OR ELSE ...

WHERE'S THE BOSS!?

GIRI (CLENCH)

THE ARMED DETECTIVE AGENCY'S FAULT!

THIS IS ALL THEIR FAULT...

BAN (BWAAAM)

STAY AWAY FROM ME!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

H-HEY!!

HELP ME...
SOME-ONE...!

...TO BLOW THE WHOLE BUILD-ING SKY HIGH!
IF YOU DON'T, I'LL USE THIS BOMB ...

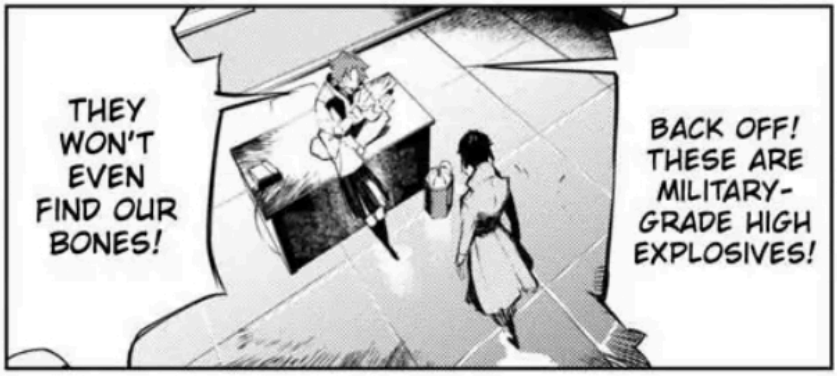
ZA (ZSSH)
SU (ZZP)
DON'T YOU SEE THIS THING!?
I SAID TO STAY BACK...!
WHOA! HOLD IT!
PITA (FREEZE)

BUT BEFORE THAT...
...I GUESS I NEED TO CHASE OUT THIS STREET COMEDIAN FIRST.

I WAS TOLD I COULD FIND WORK IF I CAME HERE.
JUST A RANDOM PASSER-BY.
節電!

WHAT... WHAT'S WITH YOU?

JUST TRY IT.


THEY WON'T EVEN FIND OUR BONES!
BACK OFF! THESE ARE MILITARY-GRADE HIGH EXPLOSIVES!

AH—

KACHI
(CLICK)

IS THIS YOUR BOMB?

DOGO (FOOM)

SHU (FWIP)

GU (CLENCH)

BUT YOU MUST DIE.

I ADMIRE YOUR RESOLVE FOR REVENGE.

BLOWING YOURSELF UP WITH YOUR HATED FOE...

SU (SSK)
!

FASCI-NATING.
A SKILL USER?

RASHOMON...

YOU'RE SIDING WITH THE BOMBER?

THAT'S ENOUGH.

NOT AT ALL. AT LEAST, IF HE WAS A BOMBER.

.....

W-WAIT! I GIVE UP, I GIVE UP!

ANYWAY. IT'S FINE NOW.

OOF.

OH DEAR, THERE ARE FINGER MARKS AROUND YOUR NECK! LET ME SEE THEM!

ZA (ZSH)

GOKI (CRAKK)

AHHH, NII-SAMA! ARE YOU OKAY!?

YES, THEY'RE BOTH ARMED DETECTIVE AGENCY EMPLOYEES. THE BOMB WAS A FAKE. IN OTHER WORDS...

HER BROTH-ER?

YOU MADE THOSE LAST NIGHT, NAOMI ...!

...THIS WAS A SORT OF...
... ENTRANCE EXAMINA-TION.

WHAT? SO WHEN HE SAID I COULD FIND WORK HERE...

(BAN (WHAM)
I'M TRULY SORRY!

I'M TRULY SORRY!!
GO (BAM)

I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY.
UM...

UM, ARE YOU ANGRY ABOUT THIS?

I KNOW IT WAS A TEST, BUT I PRETENDED TO THREATEN PEOPLE'S LIVES...

ゾクッ

LOOK, ROOKIE, CAN'T YOU SAY SOME-THING?

DOPPO KUNIKIDA— SKILL: THE MATCH-LESS POET

KEEP IT TOGETHER, NII-SAMA! I'M RIGHT HERE FOR YOU!

JUNICHIROU TANIZAKI— SKILL: LIGHT SNOW...

...AND HIS SISTER, NAOMI.

YOU CAN'T JUST SIT THERE GLARING AT HIM THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

YOU PASSED YOUR EXAM. IN OTHER WORDS, TANIZAKI HERE IS YOUR COWORKER FROM NOW ON.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, KUNIKIDA-SAN? THIS NEW GUY'S TOTALLY PISSED.

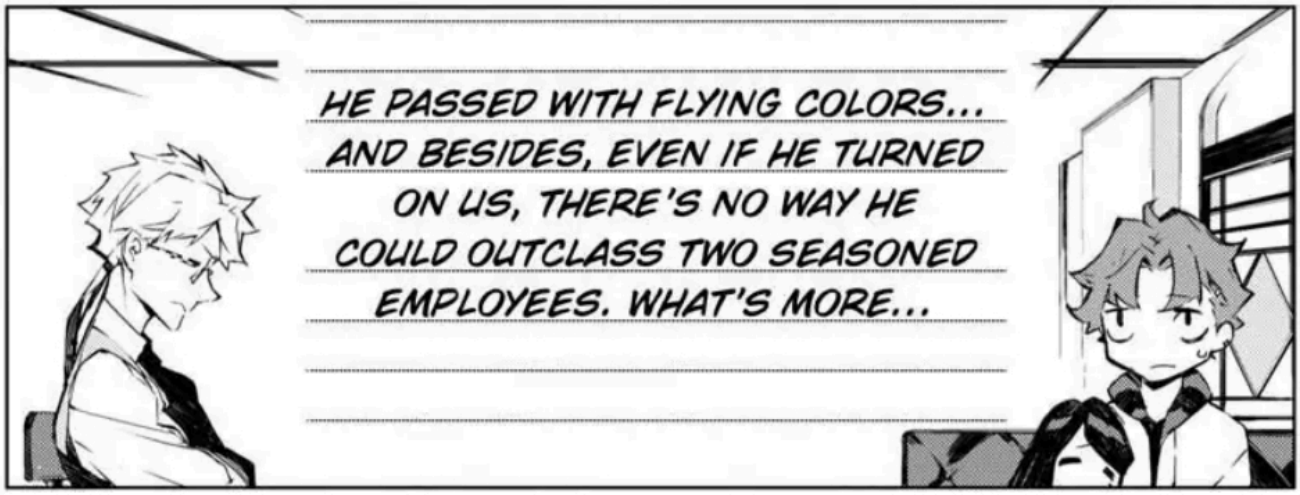
GYORO! (GLAAARE)

ぎょろ

NGH!

DON'T BE SILLY. IT WAS ALL AN ACT. IT'S A NECESSARY TEST TO JOIN OUR RANKS.

WE THREATENED HIM LOADS WITH THE BOMB AND THE HOSTAGE... HE WON'T KILL US, WILL HE?


HE PASSED WITH FLYING COLORS... AND BESIDES, EVEN IF HE TURNED ON US, THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD OUTCLASS TWO SEASONED EMPLOYEES. WHAT'S MORE...

I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS.

ヤバレ...
MEJI (CAVERT)
...HIS ANGER IS POINTED AT YOU, TANIZAKI, AND NOT ME.
AH! KUNIKIDA-SAN DECIDED IT'S NONE OF HIS BUSINESS!

THAT GIRL THERE, WHO PLAYED THE HOSTAGE, IS YOUR YOUNGER SISTER, YES?
HUH? OH, UM, YEAH.
THIS IS MY SISTER, NAOMI.

YOU SHOULD TREAT HER BETTER.

KOKU (NOD)

THAT'S THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE ANGRY?
HUH? UM, IS THIS BECAUSE I WAS KIND OF ROUGH ON HER AS A HOSTAGE...?

AND I VOLUNTEERED TO BE A HOSTAGE. I WANT HIM TO THREATEN ME.

OH, REALLY?
THEN THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, ROOKIE.
CAN'T YOU SEE HOW WELL NII-SAMA AND I GET ALONG?

CAN I HAVE SOME SWEET RED BEAN SOUP AND HOUJICHA?

I SEE I JUMPED TO CON-CLUSIONS.
AH. SPLENDID, THEN.

RIGHT AWAY!
YES, SIR!

HE WASN'T GLARING AT US? THAT'S JUST HIS NORMAL FACE?

THE VERY MAN WHO PICKS UP A NEAR-STARVED ORPHAN BY THE RIVER AND SUGGESTS HIM FOR THE FIRM JUST ABANDONS HIM?
IT'S LONG PAST THE APPOINTED TIME. HONESTLY...
BUT WHY IS THAT MAN NOT HERE YET?

.....
WAIT, YOU SAY?
BUT WHEN I CONTACTED HIM A MOMENT AGO, HE SAID HE'D BE HERE IN FIVE MINUTES.
IT'S TRUE HIS ACTIONS CAN BE HARD TO PREDICT AT TIMES...
LET'S WAIT A BIT LON-GER.

ZUUUUN GLOOOOMO

DID YOU WANT TO ORDER ANYTHING ELSE?
NOT REALLY.

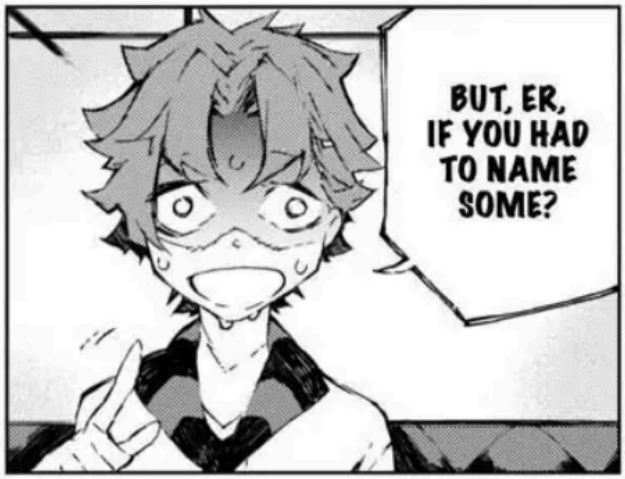
I, UM...
UM, AKUTAGAWA-SAN?

.....

NONE TO SPEAK OF.

SO, UM...
WHAT ARE YOUR LIKES AND DISLIKES?

IF I HAD TO?
WELL, FOR THINGS I LIKE...


BUT, ER, IF YOU HAD TO NAME SOME?

IF I HAD TO NAME DISLIKES, THERE'S FAVA BEANS, MANDARIN ORANGES... AND STRAY DOGS.
THERE'S TEA, FIGS, RED BEAN SOUP...

NAOMI'S ALWAYS SUCH A HELP TO ME!
GREAT WORK, MY SISTER!

BY THE WAY, AKUTAGAWA-SAN, WHAT WERE YOU DOING BEFORE YOU JOINED THE AGENCY?

AHHH...

.....
MY PAST IS LIKE A WITHERED LEAF, A PIECE OF GRAVEL. I HAD NO PLACE, NO WORK TO SPEAK OF.
I WANDERED THE SLUMS, ATTEMPTING TO SURVIVE EACH DAY.

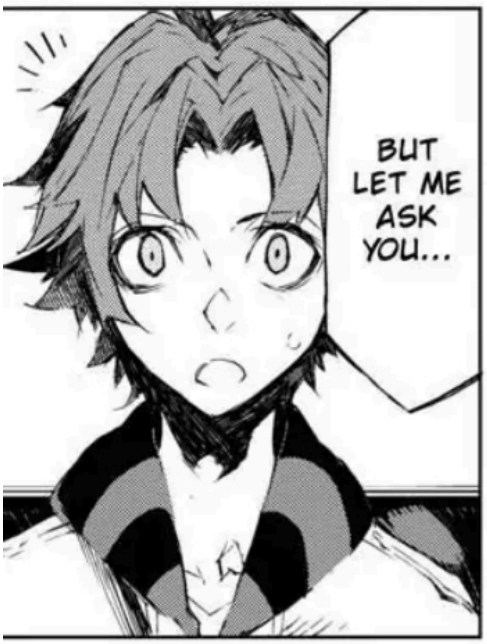
BUT IF YOU HAVE A SKILL THAT AMAZING, I BET YOU COULD'VE FOUND WORK EASILY.
LIKE, AS A BODYGUARD OR SECURITY...
IT SEEMS LIKE TONS OF PLACES WOULD WANT YOU.

SO HE REALLY WASN'T DOING ANYTHING?

IN-DEED.
BRF! BRF!
IF THEY BARK AT YOU OUT OF NOWHERE, THAT CAN STARTLE ANYONE!
OH, I HEAR YOU! YOU CAN FIND SOME ENORMOUS STRAY DOGS AROUND THIS AREA.

I WOKE UP IN THE NICK OF TIME AND FLED... BUT I'VE NOT BEEN GOOD WITH DOGS EVER SINCE.
ONE NEARLY BIT MY ARM OFF AS I WAS RESTING IN MY SLUM HIDEOUT.
OH, I SEE. YOU HAD IT TOUGH.

OH...I SEE...
OF COURSE, I RESPONDED BY EXTERMI-NATING ALL THE DOGS IN THE VICINITY AFTERWARD, BUT...
ONE OF MY FRIENDS WAS RIPPED APART BY DOGS.
NO, IT'S NOT A RARE STORY IN THE SLUMS I LIVED IN.


BUT LET ME ASK YOU...

OH, I SEE.
OH, I SEE.
OH, I SEE.
OH, I SEE.
I WALKED INTO A MINEFIELD.
AH...
OH, I SEE.
OH, I SEE.
OH, I SEE.
OH, I SEE.

OH!
THAT'S A REAL GOOD QUES-TION!

WHAT DID YOU BELONG TO BEFORE THE AGENCY?
WHAT WERE YOUR PASTS LIKE?

YEAH, WE GIVE THAT TO ALL THE ROOKIES.
REMEMBER THE AGENCY'S "GUESS OUR PAST" QUIZ, NII-SAMA?
IT'S ACTUALLY A STANDARD ONE.

NOBODY CAN GUESS IT, SO THE PRIZE HAS GONE UP TO SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN.
THE PAST OF ODA-SAN, WHO PICKED YOU UP, IS A REAL TRICKY ONE.

HERE'S SOME HOT HOUJICHA AND RED BEAN SOUP—
TSURU (SLIP)
WHY DON'T YOU—
THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE!

BA (FWIP)
AHH!

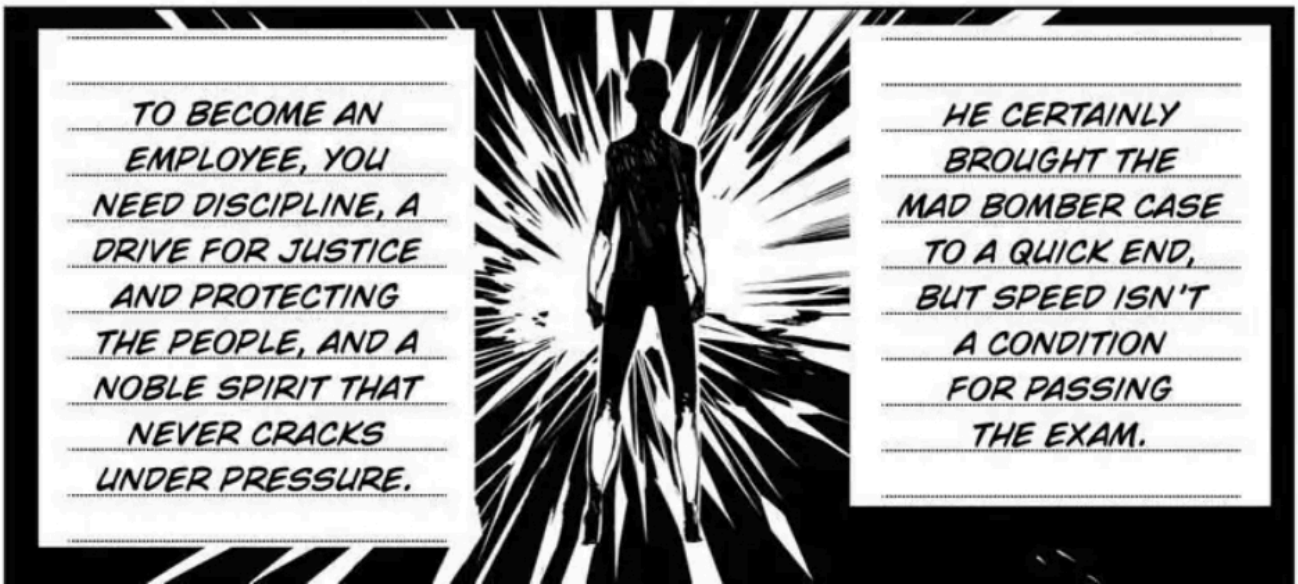
AAIIEEE!

WATCH WHERE YOU STEP.

DID THAT BURN ANYONE?

UGH... THAT BLOOD-LUST OF HIS...
I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO TAKE THE WAITRESS'S HEAD.

AKUTAGAWA MADE IT PAST THE ENTRANCE TEST, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE'S IN.


TO BECOME AN EMPLOYEE, YOU NEED DISCIPLINE, A DRIVE FOR JUSTICE AND PROTECTING THE PEOPLE, AND A NOBLE SPIRIT THAT NEVER CRACKS UNDER PRESSURE.
HE CERTAINLY BROUGHT THE MAD BOMBER CASE TO A QUICK END, BUT SPEED ISN'T A CONDITION FOR PASSING THE EXAM.

...OF THE AGENCY'S LEADER, YUKICHI FUKUZAWA.

THAT IS THE POLICY ...

BECAUSE HE SOLVED THE BOMBER CASE SO OVERWHELMINGLY FAST, AKUTAGAWA HASN'T PROVED HE HAS THE SPIRIT WE NEED.

THERE IS ANOTHER RULE TO THIS EXAM— THE SUBJECT MUST NEVER KNOW HE'S BEING TESTED.

IN OTHER WORDS, TANIZAKI AND I ARE ON A MISSION RIGHT NOW. ITS GOAL...

THUS, WE'LL PROVISIONALLY HIRE HIM AND TEST HIM MORE FULLY IN HIS FIRST JOB.

WHY BRING HIM INTO THE AGENCY...?
I CANNOT GAUGE HIS DEPTHS.

...WE MUST DEFEAT HIM BEFORE HE BECOMES A MENACE.
...IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO LET AKUTAGAWA IN. AND IF HE PROVES TO BE A NEFARIOUS SORT...

WEL-COME BACK! YOU'RE A BIT LATE...
KARAN (DING)
WHAT IS HIS REFERRER THINKING?
OH!

...ODA-SAN.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING !?
HOW LONG WERE YOU GOING TO STAND UP OUR NEW CANDIDATE, ODA!?

OH, JUST CHATTING.

HELP! SOME-BODY HELP!
GUCHA (CRPCH)
AHHH, STAY AWAY!
HELP ME!
GOKI (CRAKK)
PA (POW)
NO, NO, NO, NO, I DON'T WANNA DIE! HELP—
PA
STOP! GET BACK, GET BACK!
BUCHI (SNAP)

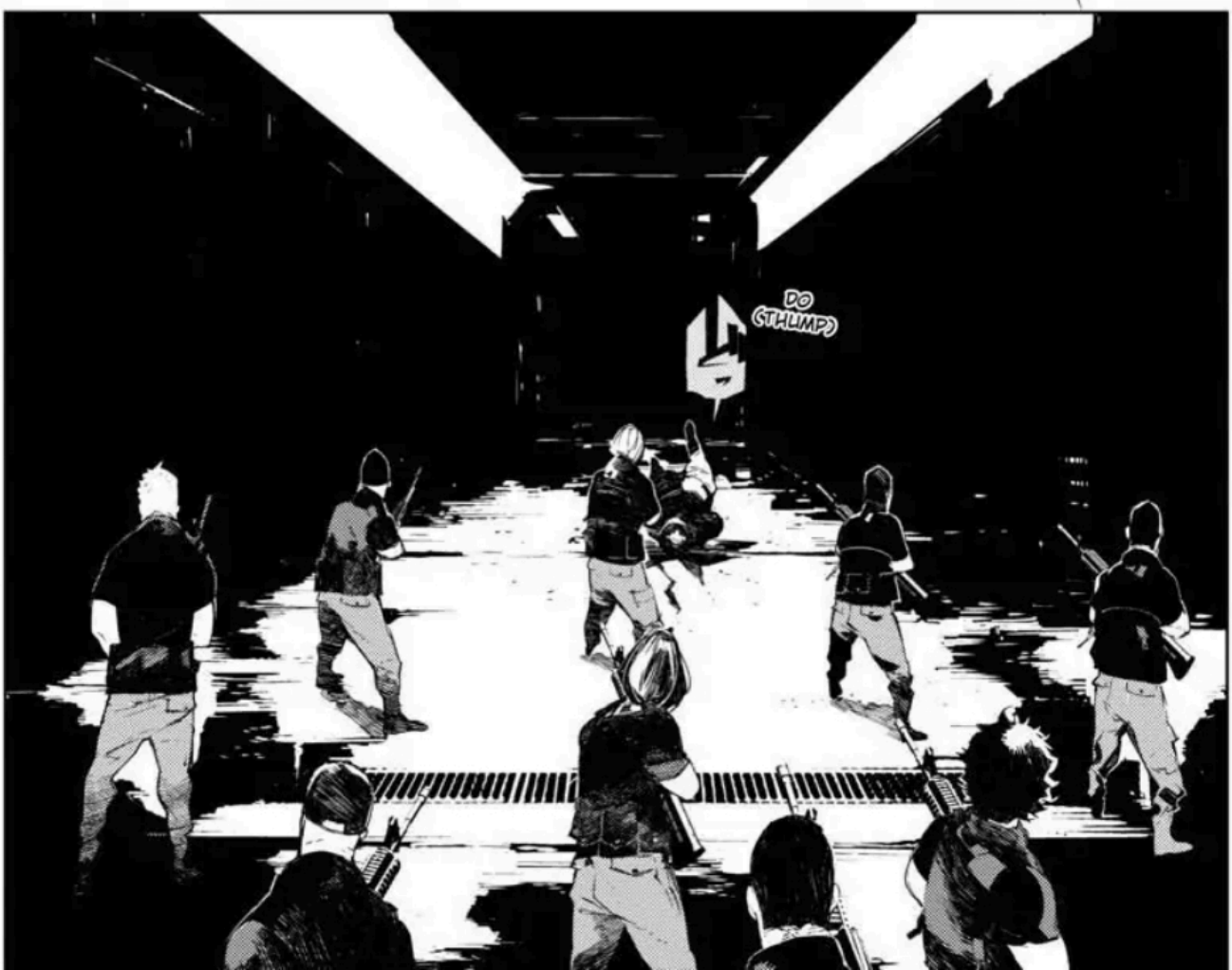
TA (BAM)
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
YOU'RE HITTING FRIENDLIES!
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
TA
TA
AND USE YOUR TACTICAL LIGHTS TO TARGET THE ENEMY!
BULLETS AREN'T WORKING! SWITCH TO ARMOR-PIERCING ROUNDS!

WE CAN'T! IF WE USE LIGHTS, IT'LL GIVE AWAY OUR POSI-TION!
THE ENEMY CAN SEE US HERE! WE NEED TO FIND THEM, OR WE'LL ALL BE—
?
PIIIIIII (BEEEEEEEEP)

TA
TA (BANG)
TA
TA
TA
FIRE!
IT'S HIM!
BLOW HIM AWAY!

TA
TA
TA
TA (POW)

TA
TA
TA
TA
TA


DO
(THUMP)

THE PORT MAFIA'S "WHITE REAPER."

THAT TERRIBLE BEAST WAS REAL.

IT...

IT WASN'T A RUMOR.

HELP!

JI (GIKO)

MEGHI (SNAP)

GUKI (KRNCH)

GO (KRAKK)

PAKIN (PEW)

MAKI (ZWING)

IF WE'RE DEFEATED, NOBODY CAN STOP THE PORT MAFIA FROM MUSCLING IN HERE!

FALL BACK!!

RE-GROUP AND FORM UP!

GO

PIN! (PIIING)
YOUR BOSSES AND FRIENDS WILL HAVE THEIR HEADS PACKED INTO BOXES ...
...AND SENT BACK TO THEIR HOME COUN-TRIES!
AT MY SIGNAL, THE ODD-NUMBERED TEAMS WILL RETREAT TO THE WAREHOUSE ENTRANCE!

HYU! (TOSS)
THE EVEN-NUMBERED TEAMS WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT FIRE!

KAN (FLASH)

OPEN FIRE!!
NOW!

EVEN TEAMS, OPEN FIRE N—
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

NO...

...THEY ALL DEAD ...?

ARE...

THEY ARE.

YES...

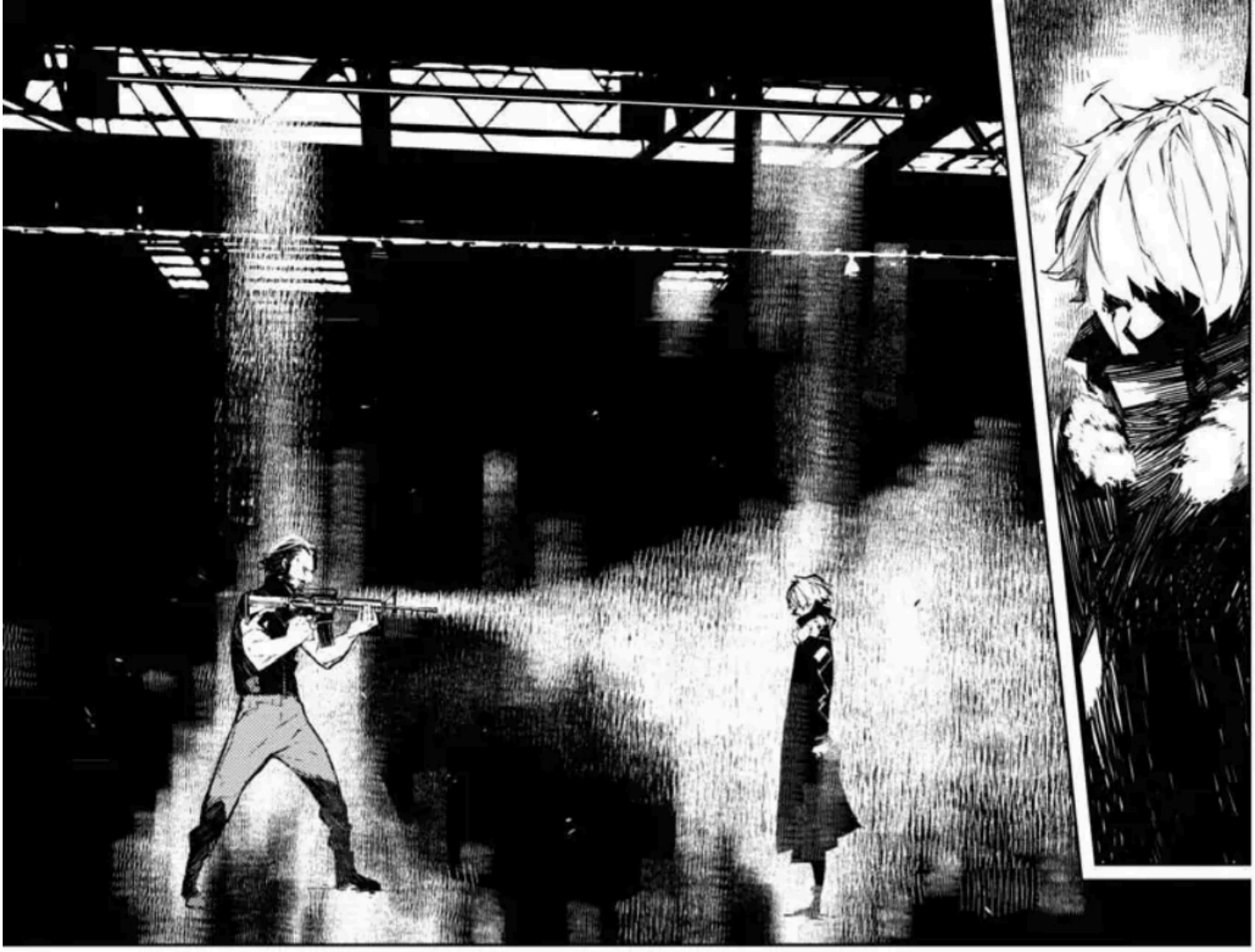
KA (FLASH)

Bungo Stray Dogs

B E A S T

#3: THE WHITE REAPER
SO IT'S TRUE, THEN ...
THE "WHITE TIGER" SKILL USER...

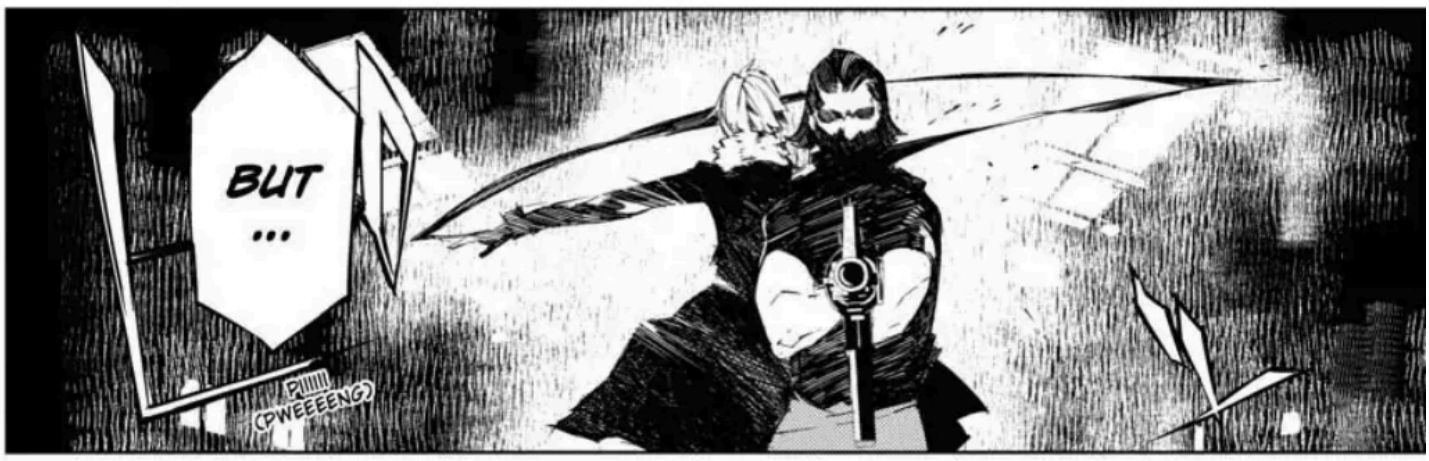
...THE PORT MAFIA'S "WHITE REAPER"...
...IS STILL A YOUNG BOY, JUST LIKE THE RUMORS.



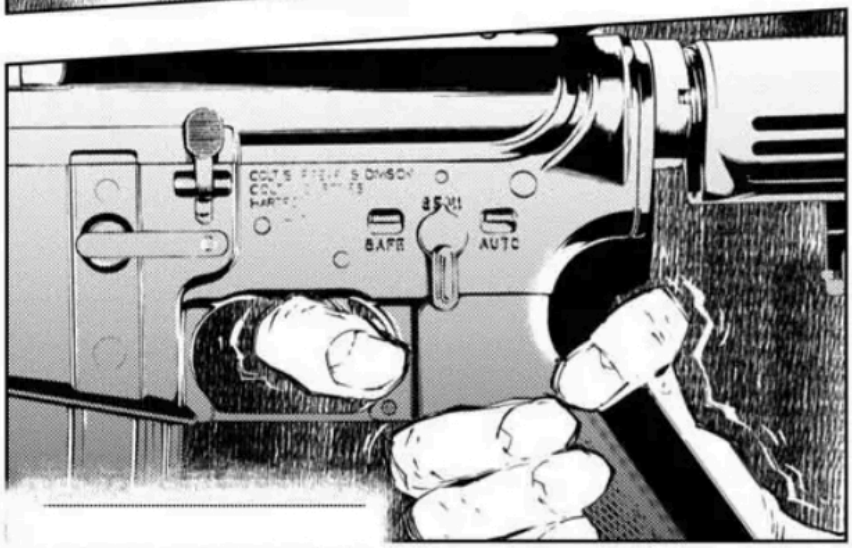
IT'S OVER.

TA
TA
TA
TA
(POW)

YOU WERE PLANNING TO ASSASSINATE THE PORT MAFIA BOSS.
KUPU (PRESS)
THE WAY YOU KEPT IT COMPLETELY SECRET UNTIL THE BIG DAY SHOWS YOU'RE A SEASONED MERCENARY.


BUT ...
P!!!!!! (PWEEEENG)

(BA-SWING)
KA-H!
TALENTED ASSASSINS SNEAK INTO THE MAFIA HQ EVERY DAY TO TAKE HIS HEAD.
EVERY SINGLE DAY.
...IF YOU'RE PROFES-SIONAL KILLERS, THEN OUR BOSS IS A PROFES-SIONAL HIT TARGET.
(BAM)
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
JUST AS YOU ALL HAVE EXPERIENCED NOW.
BUT NONE OF THEM HAVE EVER SUCCEEDED. THEY CAN'T EVEN MAKE IT PAST THE FIRST-FLOOR LOBBY.



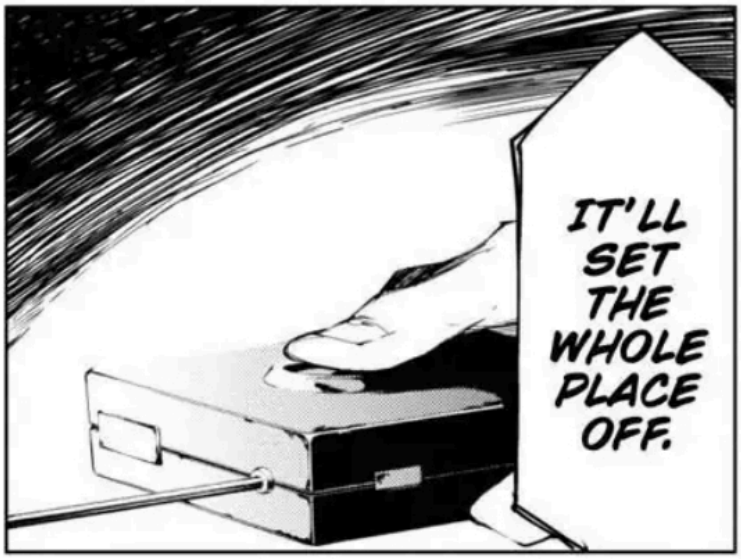
THE FINGER OF THIS WAR-HARDENED SOLDIER, WHO NEVER SWEATED ONCE IN BATTLE, NOT EVEN AGAINST GREAT ARMIES...

...WAS NOW QUIV-ERING AT THE HANDS OF A SINGLE BOY.

HE WAS DEATH ITSELF, GENTLY DESCENDING UPON HIM AS HE MADE HIS APPOINTED ROUNDS.

THE YOUTH BEFORE HIS EYES HARDLY SEEMED HUMAN.

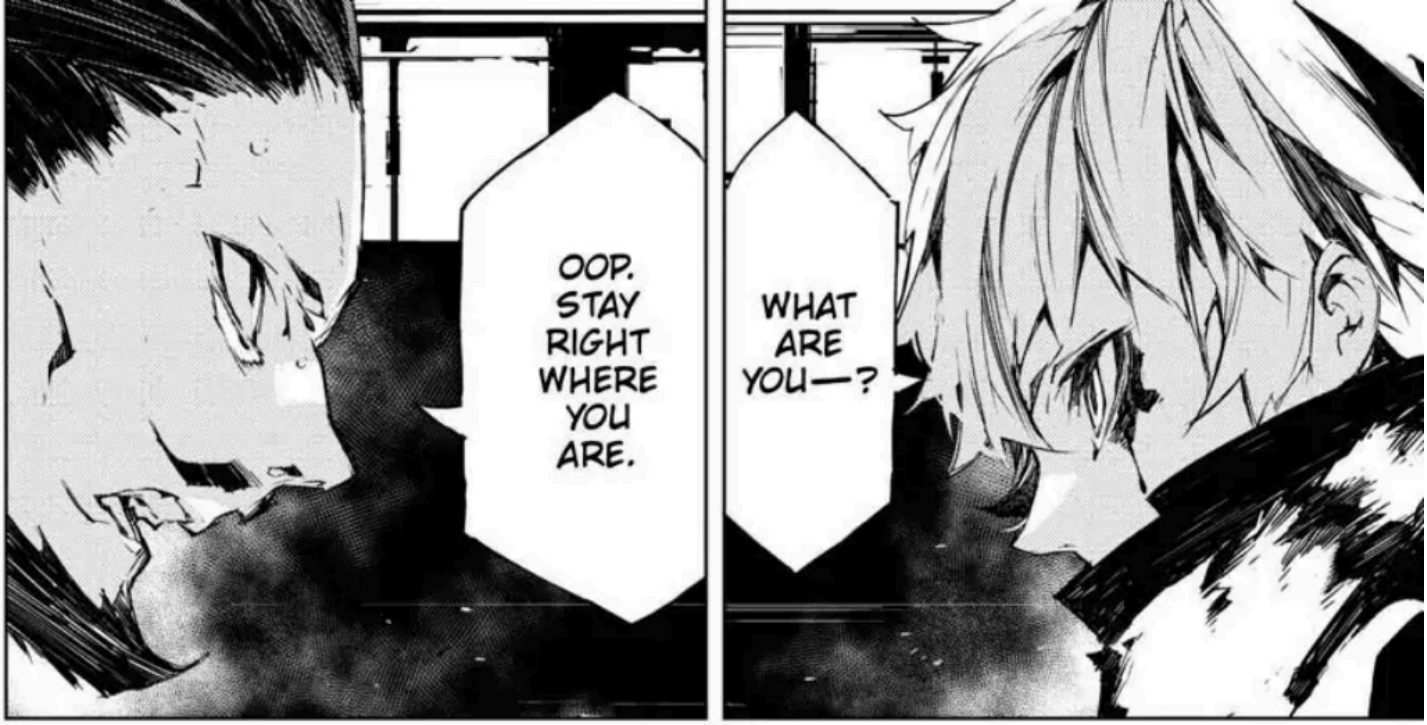
IT'S TRUE THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WIN.
BUT I CAN ALWAYS REFUSE TO ACCEPT A LOSS.


IT'LL SET THE WHOLE PLACE OFF.

CAN YOU SEE THIS?

DID YOU THINK WE CHOSE TO FIGHT IN THIS WAREHOUSE FOR NO REASON?

(WHOOOSH)
THIS BUILDING IS STORAGE SPACE FOR OUR EXPLO-SIVES!
AND THIS ONE BUTTON WILL SET IT ALL OFF.


OOP. STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.
WHAT ARE YOU—?

...IS A DEAD MAN'S SWITCH—
THIS...

...MY THUMB RELEASES, AND WE'RE ALL VAPORIZED.
IT'LL GO OFF THE MOMENT I LET GO OF IT. IF YOU KILL ME...
JUST PUSHING THE BUTTON WON'T DO THE TRICK.

A SOL-DIER ...
...HAS THEIR OWN WAY OF DYING.

THEY DIE IN BATTLE, ALONGSIDE THEIR FRIENDS.
IF I CAN DESTROY YOU WITH MY DEATH, THEN IT'S NOT A BAD WAY TO GO.

SO YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF DYING.

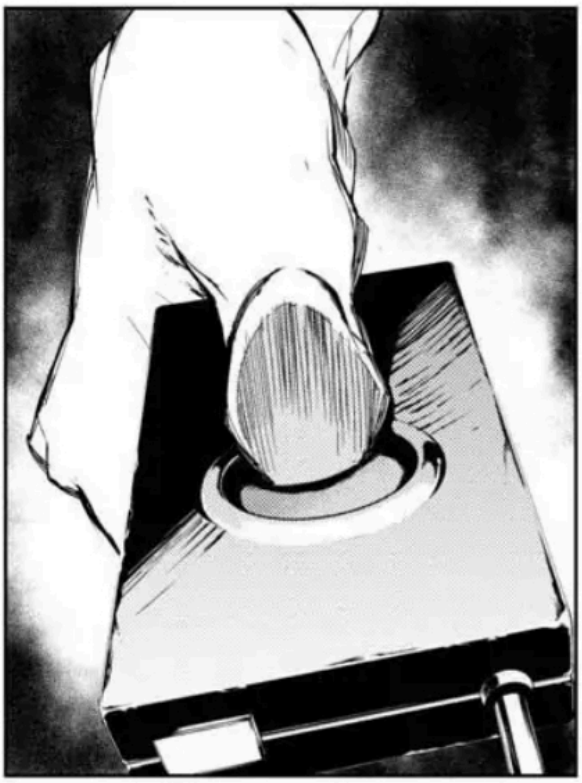
I ENVY THAT.

BUT I AM SCARED OF DYING.

I'M SCARED OF PAIN.

I'M SCARED OF BEING SHOT, OF BLEEDING.

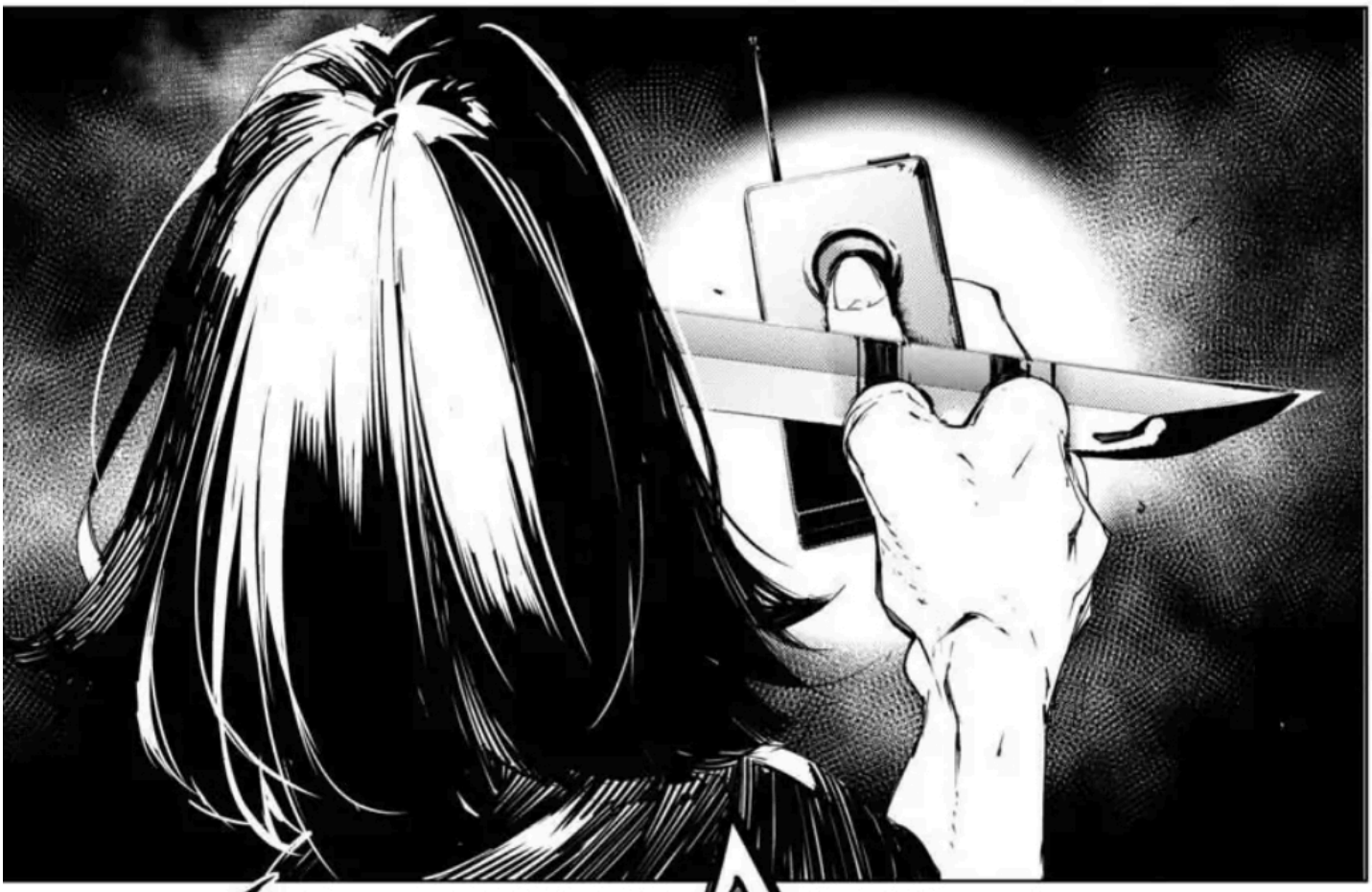
YOU SAY YOU'RE AFRAID OF DYING?
IS THAT WHY YOU KILLED MY MEN?
IN THAT CASE ...
IF I CAN BECOME ONE WITH DEATH, THEN DEATH WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND ME.
THAT'S WHY I BECAME A REAPER OF DEATH.



...I'LL BE PLUNGING YOU INTO FEAR, WON'T I?

IN THAT CASE, WHEN I REMOVE MY THUMB...

...BUT IT DOGGEDLY STAYED RIGHT ON THE BUTTON.
HE DID, IN FACT, REMOVE HIS THUMB ...
!



CHA (KACHIK)

P1
(PWIP)
P1
CAN I KILL HIM ?

...!

Su
(SSP)

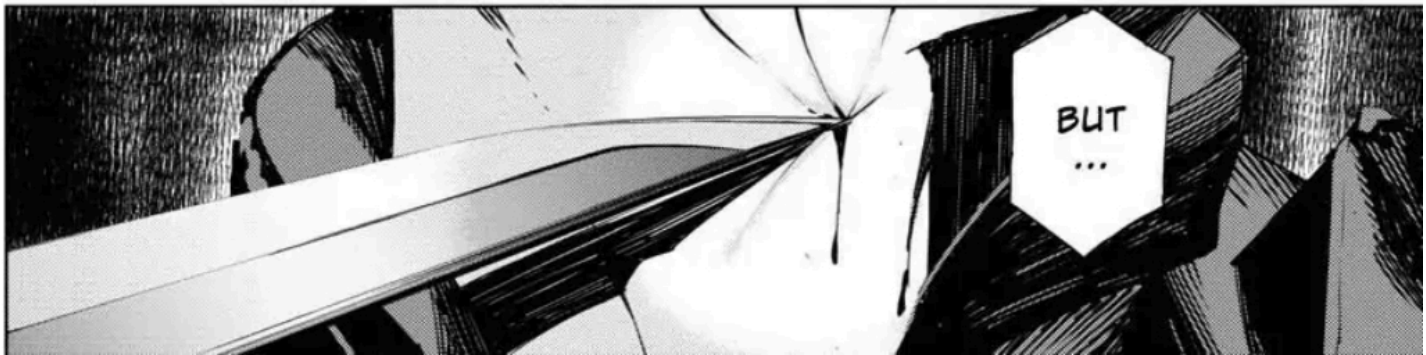
YOU DON'T NEED TO KILL HIM, KYOUKA-CHAN.

BUT HE TRIED TO KILL YOU.

.....
.....

I KNOW.
BUT THE BOSS'S ORDERS WERE TO LET ONE OF THEM SURVIVE.

WE NEED SOMEONE TO TELL THEIR SUPERIORS THAT THE ASSASSIN TEAM WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED.


BUT ...

EVEN IF WE LET HIM GO, WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT RETALIATION.

IT'S FINE. WITH THOSE FINGERS GONE, HE'LL NEVER GRIP A PISTOL AGAIN.

AS LONG AS THERE'S NO DANGER TO YOU...

FLI (FWSH)

THANK YOU.

THE ONE WITH A BODY COUNT OF THIRTY-FIVE...?

THE YOUNG ASSASSIN GIRL... KYOUKA IZUMI...?

YES, SHE DID BETRAY THEM ONCE.

NO WAY!
I THOUGHT THE "THIRTY-FIVE KILLER" BETRAYED THE MAFIA AND DIS-APPEARED ...!
WHY ARE YOU WITH THE PORT MAFIA'S WHITE REAPER?

BUT SHE CAME BACK.

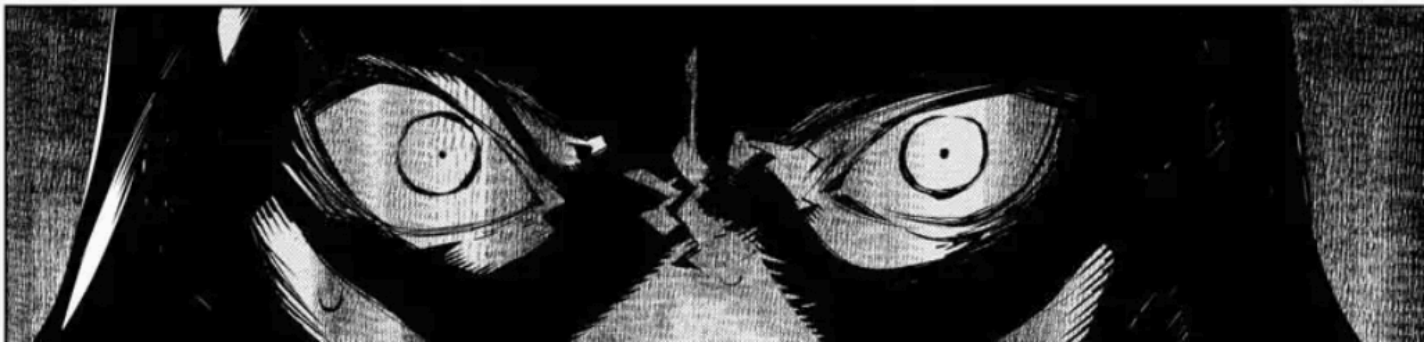
ALL...
...FOR THE SAKE OF THIS MAN.

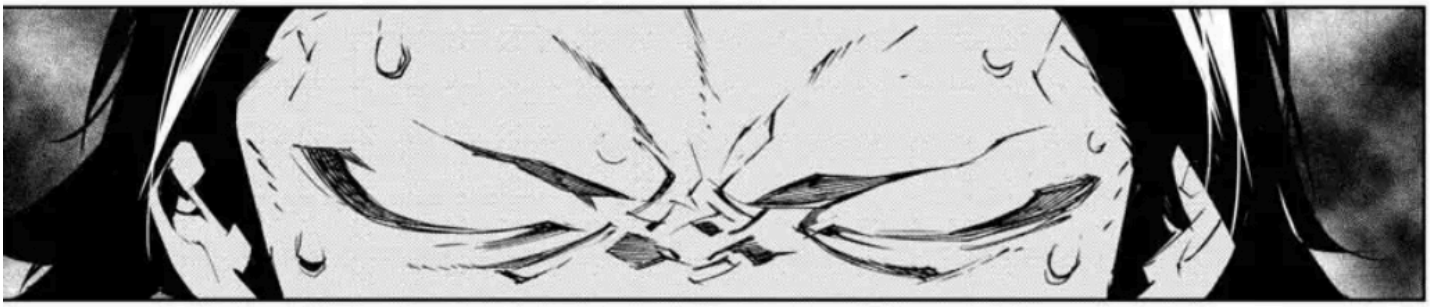
SO IF YOU DECIDE TO CHALLENGE US TO A BATTLE YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING...
...THAT IS PERFECTLY FINE.

I RESPECT THOSE WORDS.

MR. SOLDIER ...
YOU SAID THAT SOLDIERS HAVE...
...THEIR OWN WAY OF DYING.

IF YOU DO, I WILL DO MY BEST TO TAKE YOUR LIFE...
...TO AVOID FACING MY FEAR OF DEATH.





KAN
CLANG

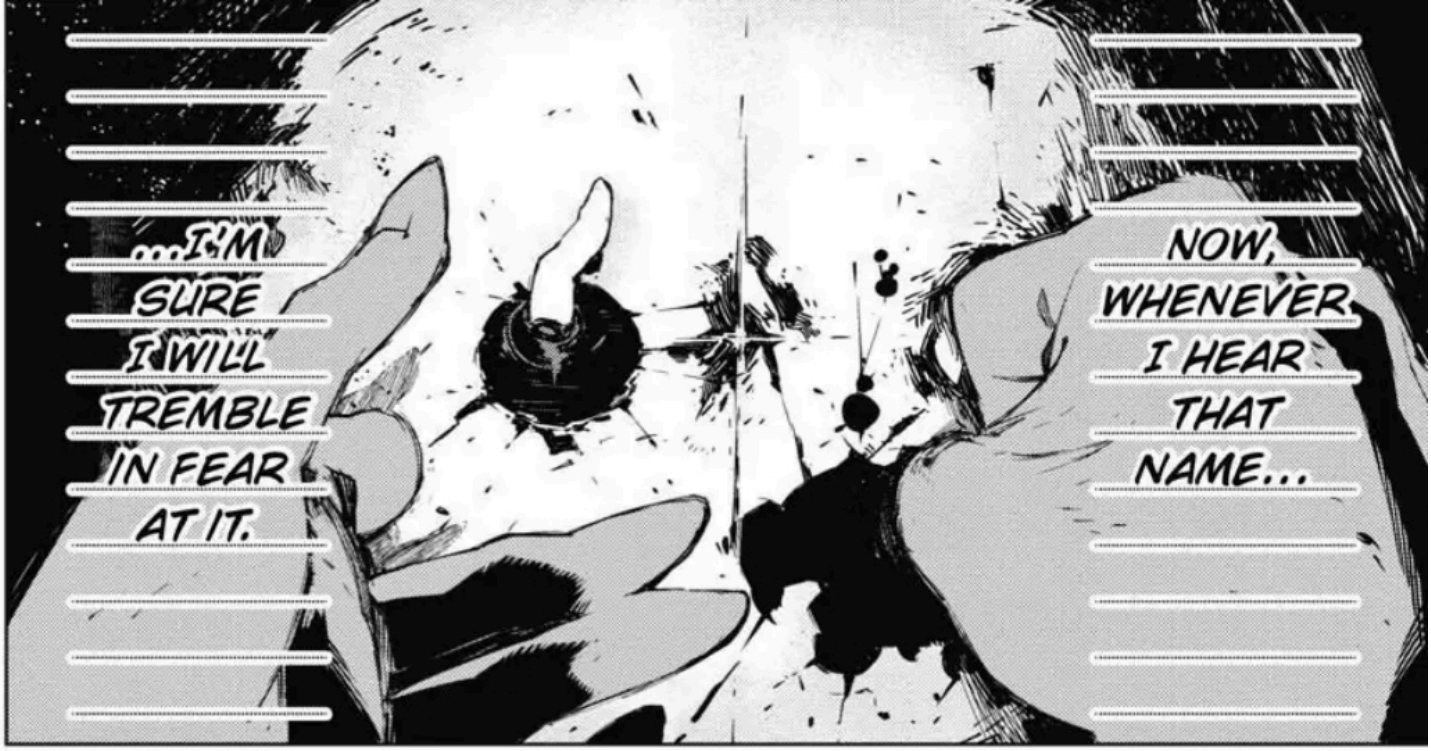
THANK YOU.

BOY...

.....

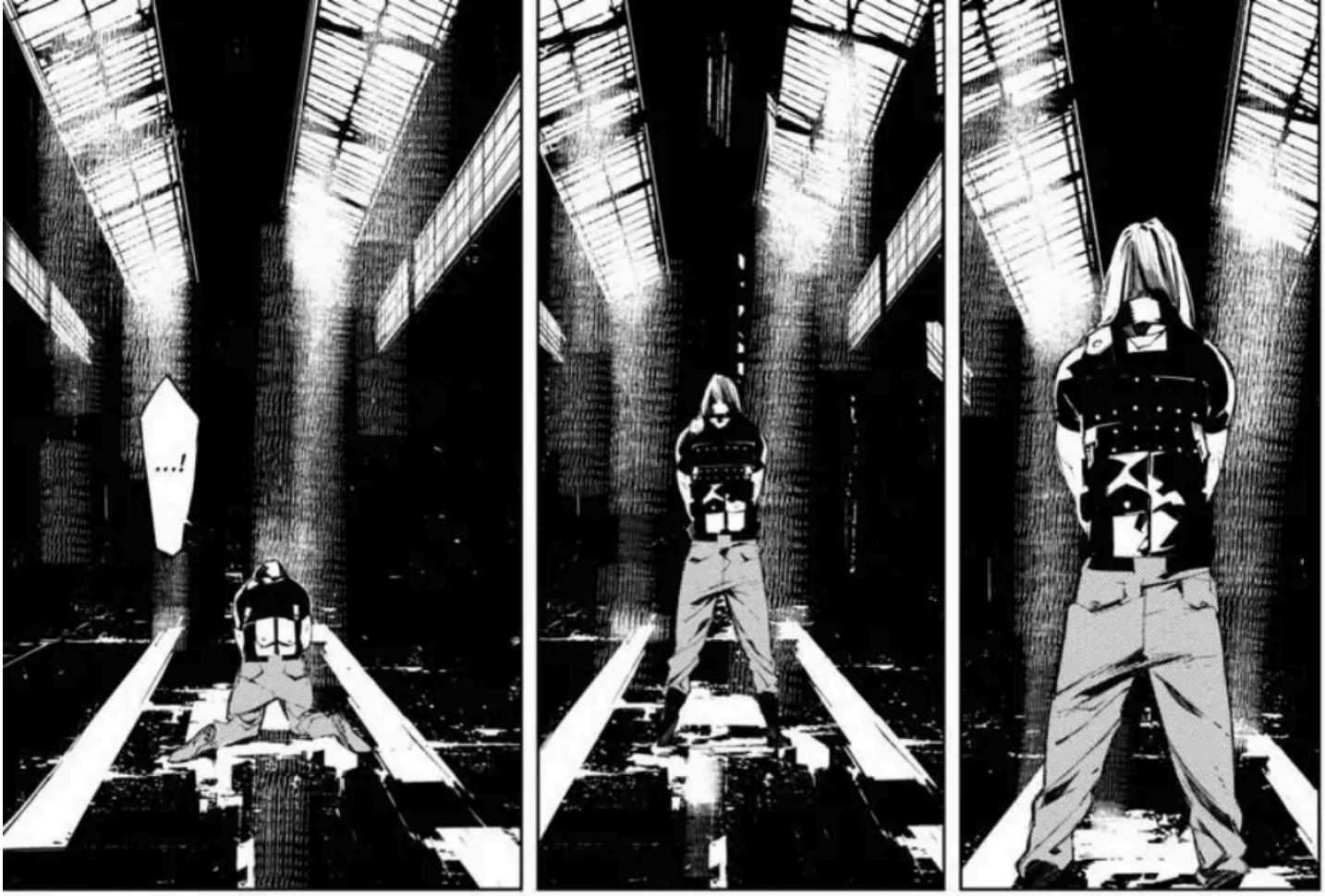
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

ATSUSHI NAKAJIMA.


...I'M SURE I WILL TREMBLE IN FEAR AT IT.
NOW, WHENEVER I HEAR THAT NAME...

WHEN-EVER I SEE A BEAST...
WHEN-EVER I SEE THE DARK-NESS...

AS A SOLDIER, MY LIFE AND CAREER JUST ENDED.
IT'S LIKELY I CAN NO LONGER CONTINUE BEING A SOLDIER.
I WILL BE DRIVEN AWAKE BY THE SMELL OF BLOOD AND NIGHTMARES BATHED IN WHITE.



YOU OKAY?
!
...!
...
KYOU-KA-CHAN.
I'M FINE...

SA (TUG)
IT'S HITTING ME A LITTLE.
POTA (DRIP)
POTA
POTA
I "TURNED" FOR QUITE A WHILE THIS TIME AROUND.

NO.

THIS NEEDS TO COME OFF, NOW.

WITHOUT THE PAIN FROM THIS COLLAR...

...I CAN'T CONTROL MY POWER AS A TIGER.

IF I LOSE CONTROL, I'D PUT YOU IN DANGER TOO.

BUT...

WE'RE READY TO TAKE YOU BACK...

...ATSUSHI-SAMA.

HIROTSU-SAN.

THANKS FOR KEEPING WATCH AROUND THE PERIMETER.

AND EVERYONE FROM BLACK LIZARD.

VERY IMPRESSIVE WORK.

YOU'VE ANNIHILATED OUR FOES, JUST AS PLANNED.

I HEAR YOU.

NOW, PLEASE RETURN TO BASE FOR TREATMENT.
YOU CAN REPORT TO THE BOSS LATER.

THE BOSS'S STRATEGY WAS PERFECT AS ALWAYS.
GUKU (CRKK)

LURE THE ENEMY INTO THE DARK AND CRUSH THEM.
HE EVEN PREDICTED THE BOMB TRAP IN ADVANCE AND PUT KYOUKA-CHAN IN PLACE TO HANDLE IT.

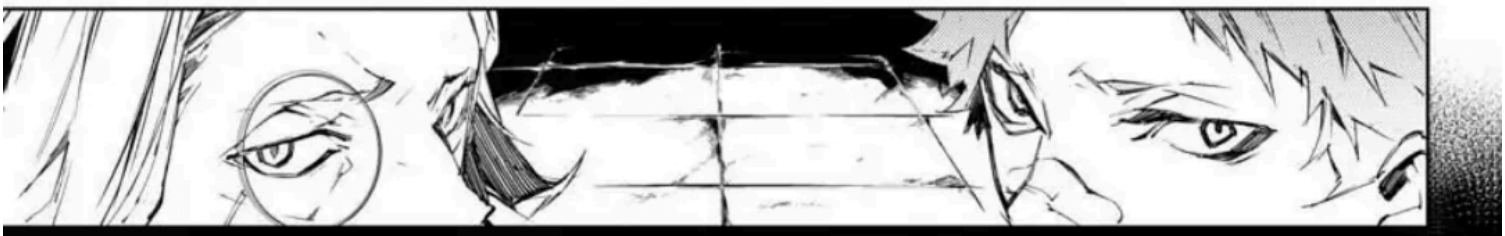
I'LL HEAD FOR THE BOSS RIGHT NOW.
I'M SURE HE HAS ANOTHER MISSION FOR ME.

THAT MAN SAVED ME. HE DRAGGED ME UP FROM HELL AND INVITED ME TO THE ORGANIZATION.

I'LL NEVER BETRAY HIS ORDERS.

SO CONTACT THE BOSS...

...AND TELL HIM— DAZAI-SAN— I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.



DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT!

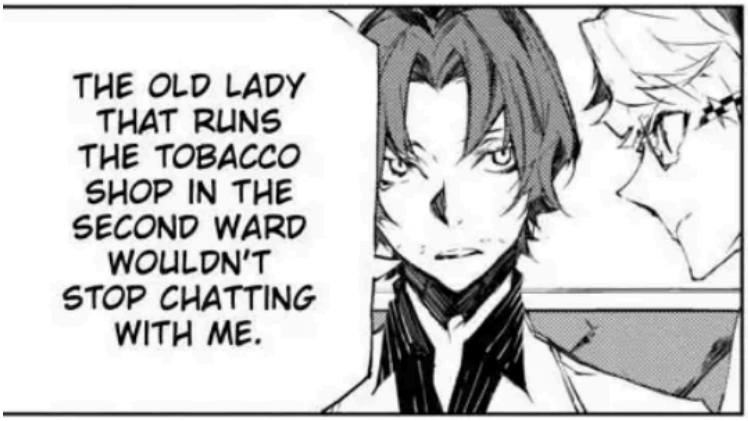
THANKS TO THE ROOKIE YOU BROUGHT IN, WE'VE GOT A BIT OF A CRISIS!

YES, SORRY I'M LATE.

RIGHT AWAY!

ONE CURRY, PLEASE.

ZUI
(SCOOTCH)


THE OLD LADY THAT RUNS THE TOBACCO SHOP IN THE SECOND WARD WOULDN'T STOP CHATTING WITH ME.

SO WHY ARE YOU SO LATE...
...ODA?

AGAIN?
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS CAUGHT BY THESE GARRULOUS RETIREES?

I ALWAYS DO...
...BUT NONE OF THEM TAKE ME SERIOUSLY.

IT'S FINE TO GIVE RESPECT TO THE AGED, BUT BEING THREE HOURS LATE TO WORK IS A PROBLEM!
JUST CUT HER OFF AND LEAVE!

AT LEAST WINCE AT THEM A LITTLE. FROWN. SHOW THEM YOU WANT TO LEAVE.

THAT'S BECAUSE NO ONE CAN TELL HOW SERIOUS YOU ARE WHEN YOU SPEAK...

SHOW US.

THEY DON'T?

I DO, BUT NOBODY EVER NOTICES.

TODAY, PLEASE?

I'M...

...DOING IT NOW.

YEAH.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, ODA-SENPAI.

YOU BEEN EATING WELL SINCE THEN?

YES.

THANKS FOR WAITING! ONE PLATE OF CURRY!

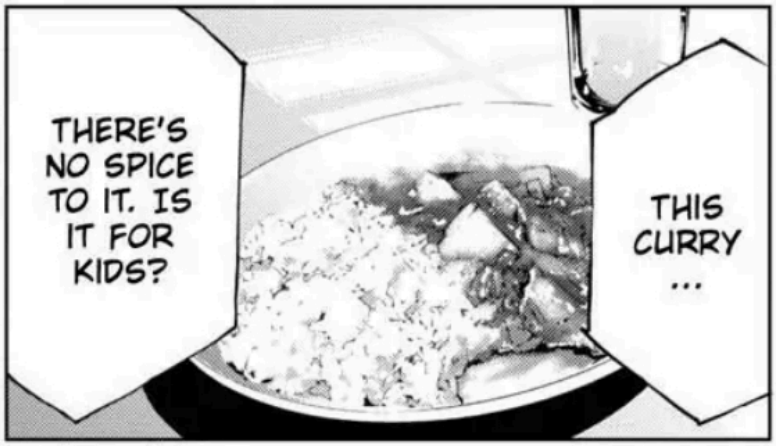
THEN GOOD.

...I WOULD HAVE DIED OF STARVATION IN MISERY.

IF YOU HADN'T FOUND ME BY THE RIVER...

THERE'S NO REAL REASON FOR IT.

WELL, ODA HAS A HABIT OF NEVER LEAVING ORPHANS IN THE LURCH WHEN HE SEES THEM.

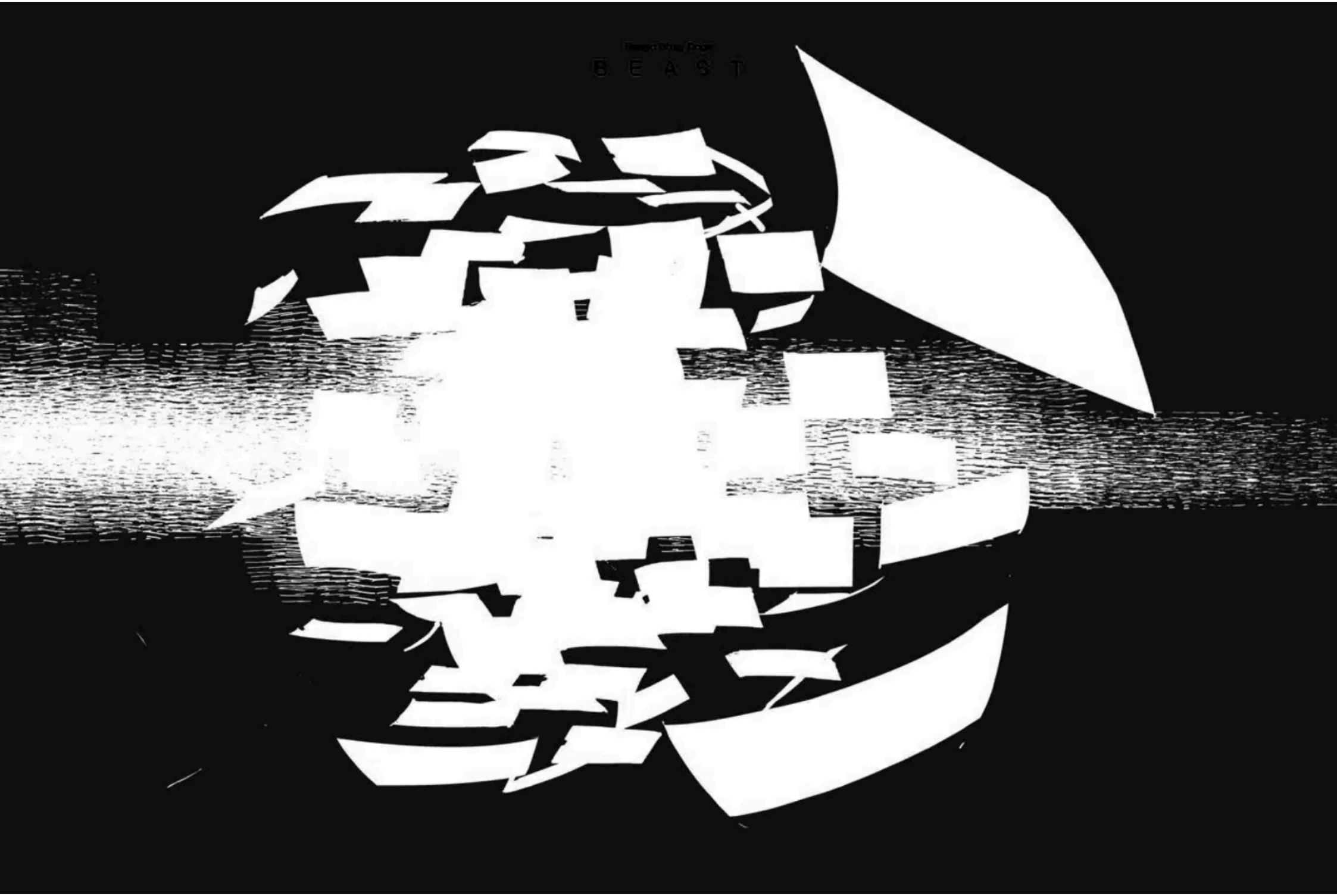

THIS CURRY ...
THERE'S NO SPICE TO IT. IS IT FOR KIDS?

UM, MA'AM?
I'M SORRY, BUT...

ZU
(ZRRRK)

...COULD YOU SPICE THIS UP A—

BEAST


BEAST

ZU (ZRRRK)

...COULD YOU SPICE THIS UP A—

00:01

#4: THE TARGET

00:02

00:03

00:04

00:00

...I WOULD HAVE DIED OF STARVATION IN MISERY.
IF YOU HADN'T FOUND ME BY THE RIVER...

THERE'S NO REAL REASON FOR IT.

WELL, ODA HAS A HABIT OF NEVER LEAVING ORPHANS IN THE LURCH WHEN HE SEES THEM.

THIS CURRY ...
THERE'S NO SPICE TO IT. IS IT FOR KIDS?

UM, MA'AM?
I'M SORRY, BUT...

GIN
(TWIIING)
ZUDO
(THUNK)

COULD YOU GIVE ME YOUR SPICIEST CURRY INSTEAD?
OH, SORRY.

UH, WHAT...
...WAS THAT?

NOT THAT!
WITH CURRY, THE SPICIER THE BETTER, SO...

BUN (TOSS)
HUH?
KUNIKIDA.
YOUR HAND.

GA (TWANG)
KA (TWING)
KIN
GIN (TING)
BIN (CLANG)
KIN (TWANG)

ROOKIE! WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?
KIN
GIN
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA...!

WHAT AM I DOING?

ZU (THOOM)
SU (ZWIP)
HEY!

AFTER I DEFEATED THEM, AKUTAGAWA ASKED ME TO TEACH HIM HOW TO BECOME STRONG.

WHEN I PICKED THIS KID UP, WE WERE SUDDENLY ATTACKED.

SO THAT'S WHY HE'S HERE NOW.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT TRAINING PEOPLE, BUT I SAID I COULD GUIDE HIM IN THE AGENCY, AT LEAST.

I'VE NEVER MET A USER THIS POWERFUL.
I AM VERY LUCKY.

GIN (SWING)

KIN (TING)

UM, WAIT ...

NO...

BI (BING)

KICHI (SCRTCH)

KI (PLING)

JUST STOP ALREADY! IF YOU WANT STRENGTH, AT LEAST TAKE IT TO A TRAINING ROOM!

YES, ODA'S GOT A POWERFUL SKILL...

...BUT WHO CARRIES ON LIKE THIS IN A RESTAU-RANT!?

LIFE WOULD BE A LOT EASIER IF MY FOES WERE ALL IN TRAINING ROOMS.

BUT I MAY FIND THEM ON THE STREET ...

...IN A SHOP...

...OR INSIDE A MOVING TRAIN.

EITHER WAY, I NEED BATTLE SKILLS TO MATCH.

OTHER-WISE, THERE'S NO POINT!

THAT'S ENOUGH.

PI (PWIP)

EXCEL-LENT.

I JUST CALL HIM THE "MAN IN BLACK."

HE'S THE ONE WHO KIDNAPPED MY YOUNGER SISTER, LONG AGO.

I NEED TO DEFEAT HIM AND GET GET HER BACK.

ONE OF THEM ...

...IS A MAN I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.

NO WONDER YOU GOT ANGRY WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT US BEING SIBLINGS.

YOUR SISTER?

KID-NAPPED ?

NOT A SINGLE CLUE, NO.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF SHE'S ALIVE.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE SHE'S BEING HELD?

BUT I SWEAR I WILL FIND HER.

IT'S ALSO EASIER TO GAIN INFORMATION FROM UNDERGROUND SOURCES...
IT'S TRUE YOU CAN EXAMINE THE CITY POLICE'S MISSING-PERSON FILES THROUGH US.
SO THAT'S WHO YOU WANTED TO FIND THROUGH THE AGENCY, EH?

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
WHAT ARE YOU ALL TALKING ABOUT?
BUT IN A CITY THIS BIG, IT'S NEVER EASY TO SEARCH FOR A SINGLE PERSON.

WHY, YOU ASK?
AKUTAGAWA-SAN, YOU'VE TRULY MADE AN INTELLIGENT CHOICE.

BECAUSE NO MATTER WHERE YOU LOOK, YOU WON'T FIND ANYONE MORE SUITED FOR FINDING YOUR SISTER...

...THAN THE ARMED DETECTIVE AGENCY.

REMEMBER WHO WE HAVE ON THE TEAM.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, EVERYONE?

I'LL GRANT YOU THAT.

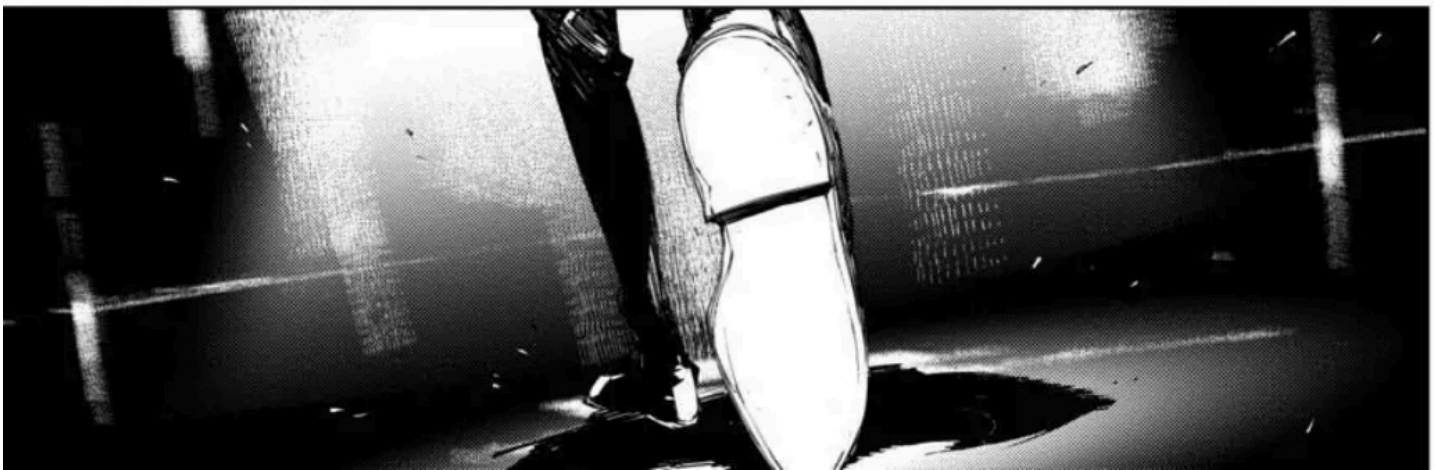
GOOD POINT.

AH, YES.

OH!

BA (BWING)
YOUR SISTER'S AS GOOD AS DISCOVERED ALREADY!
AKUTA-GAWA-SAN!
HOLD IT. WE HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DO FIRST.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE!
SO LET'S GET MOVING!

BORO
(CRUMBLE)
OH...



I'VE COME AT YOUR SUMMONS.
BOSS, IT'S ATSUSHI.

ENTER.

YES, SIR.

LOWER YOUR HEAD, RAID CAPTAIN!
SHOW SOME RESPECT TO THE BOSS!

MY APOLOGIES, SIR.
IT'S FINE, CHUUYA.
WELL DONE, ATSUSHI-KUN. I'M GLAD TO WELCOME YOU BACK HERE.

WHAT!? CALL HIM "BOSS," APPRENTICE!
YOU WANT ME TO KILL YOU!?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
...DAZAI-SAN.

ZU (VWOOM)

HUH!?
LEAVE US ALONE FOR A BIT, CHUUYA.
I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH HIM IN PRIVATE.

NOW, NOW, CHUUYA, WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

THE HELL'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? HE'S NOT EVEN A LEADER OR A SECRETARY, JUST ONE OF THE RANK AND FILE!

JUST MEETING WITH HIM IS A SPECIAL CASE TO END ALL SPECIAL CASES!

WHY'S THAT?

I CAN TRUST IN ATSUSHI-KUN.

TRUST ISN'T THE ISSUE!

IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED BEFORE, YOU KNOW THERE'S NO WAY I CAN PERMIT YOU TO BE ALONE WITH HIM.

WHAT IF HE'S MANIPULATED WITH A SKILL? WHAT IF SOMEONE SNUCK A BOMB INSIDE OF HIM UNAWARES?

PERMIT ME?

I DIDN'T ASK FOR PERMISSION, CHUUYA.

!

YOU'RE JUST ONE OF THE LEADERS, AND I'M THE BOSS.

AND IN THE MAFIA, ORDERS ARE ABSOLUTE.

YOU NEED TO RESPECT THE CHAIN OF COMMAND HERE.

ZUKA (STOMP)

WELL, FINE! HAVE IT YOUR WAY!

ZUKA

OH, DO I NOW?

HIS HEAD IS MINE TO TAKE SOMEDAY.

YOU LET THE BOSS DIE, YOU'LL PAY, APPRENTICE.

OH DEAR.

BAN (SLAAAM)

IT'S FUN TO WATCH CHUUYA PINBALL BETWEEN THE TWO...
KACHA (CLINK)
...BUT AS THE BOSS, HE HAS TO GUARD ME.
I'M A MAN HE DESPISES AND WANTS TO KILL...

...BUT I DO WONDER IF I GO TOO FAR AT TIMES LIKE THIS.

I'VE HEARD HOW YOUR MISSION WENT.
YOU WIPED OUT AN ENEMY PLATOON ALL BY YOURSELF?

SU (ZZP)
AT EASE, ATSUSHI-KUN.

YES, SIR.

BUT THERE'S A MINISTER PULLING THE STRINGS.
THE BAND YOU DEFEATED WAS A MERCENARY TEAM HIRED BY AN OVERSEAS WARLORD.

THE PORT MAFIA'S SECURED MOST OF THE SAILING RIGHTS TO NEARBY WATERS IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS. THAT MUST BE WHY THEY PLOTTED THAT ASSASSINATION.

I'M SURE THIS FAILED ATTACK WILL GIVE THE MINISTER EVEN MORE TO HAVE HEADACHES OVER.

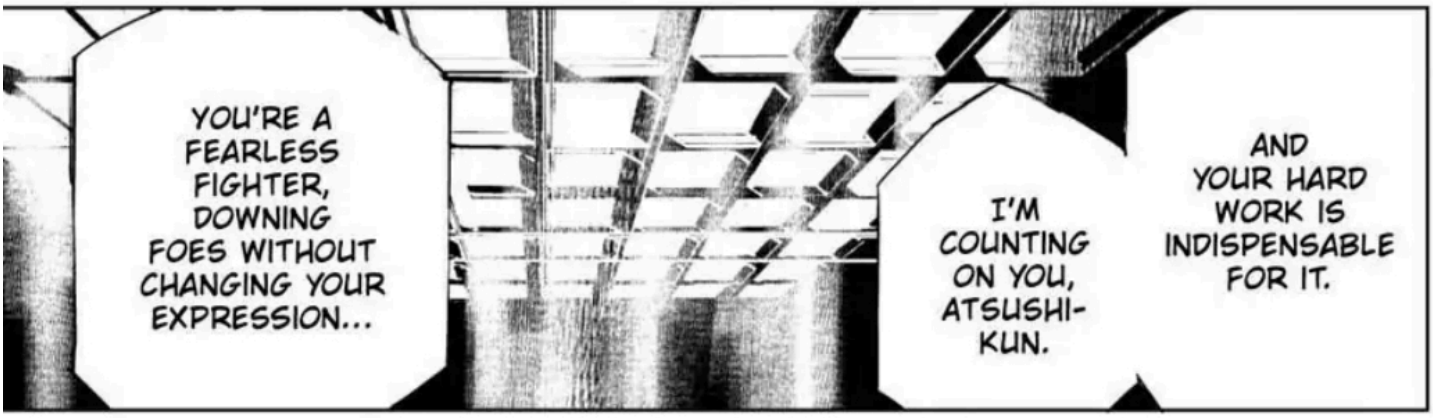
WITH AKUTAGAWA-KUN JOINING THE AGENCY IN YOKOHAMA, THE PLAN'S PASSED PHASE TWO. IT'S TIME TO PREPARE FOR PHASE THREE.

SO, MOVING ON, LET ME EXPLAIN YOUR NEXT MISSION.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THE AGENCY?
PHASE THREE ...?

IT'S A VAST PLAN, ATSUSHI-KUN.
MASSIVE ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU LIGHT-HEADED.


AND YOUR HARD WORK IS INDISPENSABLE FOR IT.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, ATSUSHI-KUN.
YOU'RE A FEARLESS FIGHTER, DOWNING FOES WITHOUT CHANGING YOUR EXPRESSION...

THE PORT MAFIA'S WHITE REAPER.

FEARLESS?
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL.
IF ANYTHING, I'M A TIMID PERSON.

WHETHER IT'S BEING SHOT AT...
...OR SHEDDING MY OWN BLOOD...
...I'M SCARED OF IT ALL.

BUT THE REPORTS SAY YOU'VE CONTINUALLY MASSACRED SEASONED SOLDIERS...
...WEARING THE SAME LOOK ON YOUR FACE THE WHOLE TIME.

YES ...
I'M SCARED OF BATTLE, BUT I NEVER SWEAT AT ALL...
...AND I NEVER QUIVER THE TINIEST BIT.

LIKE A PERFECTLY CALM LAKE, I NEVER REACT...

...EVER SINCE THAT TIME.

THAT TIME...

...EH?

YOU MEAN THE DAY YOU IGNORED MY ORDERS AND TOOK ACTION?

I—

THAT INCIDENT ...

I...

THAT ...

I...

NO!

I...

YOU USED TO BE A COWARDLY BOY, SEARCHING FOR A WAY OUT, EVEN WITH THE ENEMY BEFORE YOUR EYES.

I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU ARE A TIMID SOUL.

BECAUSE IT TAKES FEAR TO DRIVE AWAY FEAR.

BUT EVER SINCE THAT DAY, YOU CHANGED. DO YOU KNOW WHY?

IT NEVER LETS UP FOR A SECOND, AND IT'S TAKEN YOUR ABILITY TO REACT TO ANY OTHER FEAR.

SINCE THAT DAY, YOU'VE FELT A CONSTANT FEAR, ONE BEYOND WHAT YOU CAN HANDLE.

GUNS, KNIVES, MURDEROUS FOES... NONE OF THEM CAN REACH ALL THE WAY INTO YOUR HEART.
BECAUSE YOU ALREADY HAVE A MONSTROUS FEAR STRETCHING OUT OVER IT.
AND YOU STILL CAN'T ESCAPE FROM THAT?
THE FEAR THAT HE'S DEAD?

GA (SLAM)

NO!
NO, I...
I'M NOT AFRAID ...
I...

RIGHT THIS INSTANT!
PLEASE, DAZAI-SAN, GIVE ME YOUR ORDERS...

... EVER !!
...EVER ...
NEVER...
I'LL NEVER TURN MY BACK TO YOUR COMMANDS AGAIN.

NOW, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE NEXT PLAN.
I'LL PLACE MY TRUST...
...IN THOSE WORDS.

GIN-CHAN.
THE MAP, PLEASE.
RIGHT HERE.

YOUR NEXT TARGET...

ATSUSHI-KUN.

...IS THE ARMED DETECTIVE AGENCY.

To be continued

Bungo Stray Dogs

BEAST

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BUYING VOLUME 1!! ^^

I HOPE YOU HAD A LOT OF FUN WITH IT.

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K-NAGA

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SHIWASU HOSHIKAWA

ART ASSISTANCE

ODA

Translation Notes

Page 56

Houjicha is a type of Japanese green tea. Unlike most other types of tea, it's roasted after steaming, removing much of the bitterness, turning the leaves reddish-brown, and giving it a distinct earthy aroma.

BUNGO STRAY DOGS 1
BEAST

Story: KAFKA ASAGIRI Art: SHIWASU HOSHIKAWA
Character Design: SANGO HARUKAWA

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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